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# Recommendations

## 2019-23 GNJ Strategic Plan Legislation

**Whereas**, in 2013, United Methodists of Greater New Jersey (GNJ) embarked on a five-year journey to grow the percentage of vital congregations from 14% to 41%, an ambitious goal that focused on the five markers of vitality: worship, small groups, mission, stewardship and making new disciples; and since, we have increased the percentage of highly vital congregations to 32% and experienced a renewed effort to make disciples and grow vital congregations to transform the world; and we are making strong progress

- 52 new faith communities<sup>1</sup> have been started
- 67% of our worshipers are now in small groups
- 2,810 young adults are in small groups
- 50% of our worshipers are participating in hands on mission
- 22% of our worshipers are racial ethnic
- 150+ congregations are multicultural/ethnic
- 100 appointments are cross racial
- 17% of the average congregation's budget is spent on mission
- 10% shared ministry reduction that translates to an additional \$1 million dollars available for mission in the local church
- \$5.5 million was raised through our congregations for the Mission Fund Campaign
- \$17 million was raised for A Future With Hope for Sandy recovery
- 256 homes have been rebuilt since Sandy and 13,000 volunteers from across the country joined our efforts

**Whereas**, God wants to continue working through GNJ passionate disciples, vital congregations and transformational leaders so that miracles of healing and transformation continue to occur across GNJ and around the world; and

**Whereas**, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference empowered the GNJ Connectional Table to lead GNJ in a planning process to develop a new strategic plan for 2019-23, that over the last year has engaged a conference-wide process that involved more than 850 people to develop a Strategic Plan, and

**Whereas**, the proposed 2019-23 Strategic Plan builds on the progress of the current plan and casts a bold vision and set strategic priorities with the conviction that, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, *miracles can happen everywhere*.

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the 2019-23 Strategic Plan be adopted and carried out as delineated in the Plan, and that each year of the Plan's implementation a report be presented to the Annual Conference session on the progress, challenges and necessary modifications.

Submitted by,  
The GNJ Connectional Table

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<sup>1</sup> Faith communities include new worshipping communities, second campuses, new church plants, and small groups that target the unchurched.

## 2019-2023 Strategic Plan

### Why does GNJ exist?

**GNJ exists to recruit and develop transformational leaders** so that people and communities experience healing, renewal and wholeness from God. Transformational leaders grow vital congregations who shape passionate disciples of Jesus Christ and share faith, hope and justice in the community.

### GNJ Adaptive Challenge

Increase the *motivation, urgency* and *ability* of disciples, leaders and congregations to *connect* and *engage* with a diverse group of people in the community so that the people in the pews look more like all the people in the community.

### Holy and Audacious Goal - Leadership 100

Cultivate and equip 100 clergy and 100 laity leaders *who make disciples who make disciples*.

**Leadership 100** will change GNJ into a disciple-making and disciple-engaging force to transform the world. Leadership 100 will;

- develop more transformational and apostolic leaders for our congregations and the community, and
- grow a pool of talented leaders who can be deployed to increase disciple-making by:
  - *changing* the culture to nurture leaders who *multiply* passionate disciples
  - *growing* vibrant missional congregations and
  - *transforming* lives and communities

**We will know we have achieved this God-sized goal when we have 100 congregations whose worship attendance has moved from one category to the next.**

In GNJ we presently have four categories of average worship attendance:

- 299 congregations with average worship attendance of less than 50
- 149 congregations with average worship attendance of 50 – 99
- 28 congregations with average worship attendance of 100 – 124
- 76 congregations with average worship attendance of 125 or more, with:
  - 21 congregations with average worship attendance of 125-149
  - 23 congregations with average worship attendance of 150-199
    - 14 congregations with average worship attendance of 200-299
    - 9 congregations with average worship attendance of 300-499
    - 6 congregations with average worship attendance of 500-699
    - 1 congregation with average worship attendance of 700-999
    - 1 congregation with average worship attendance of 1,000-1,499
    - 1 congregation with average worship attendance of 1,500-1,749
    - 0 congregations with average worship attendance of 1,750+

### **GNJ Cultural Shifts by 2023**

GNJ will shift;

1. FROM a church that mostly serves its members and clergy TO a mission that connects with the people in the community through relevant ministries
2. FROM congregations with a single cultural expression and privilege TO congregations with multicultural expression and intercultural competence
3. FROM concentrating ministry and thinking with current church members TO further extend ministry and thinking to make and engage younger and more diverse generations of disciples.
4. FROM sharing information through workshops to train leaders TO using workshops that interact with and experience the content to form leaders
5. FROM maintaining congregations and their buildings TO working with congregations to repurpose buildings for regenerative mission
6. FROM depending exclusively on Shared Ministries (apportionments) for mission and ministry TO cultivating new sources of income to grow mission and ministry

### **GNJ Strategies for the Next Five Years**

1. *New Faith Communities* – new expressions of congregations that gather diverse people in ways that are relevant to them.
2. *Intercultural Competency* - Develop leadership capacity for intercultural competence in GNJ so we can love across boundaries and differences and work towards inclusion of all people.
3. *NextGen Ministries* - Cultivate and mobilize new generations of enthusiastic disciples of Jesus Christ that connect, engage and lead in their congregations and communities to transform the world through:
  - a. *IGNITE* - life-changing worship, relevant teachings and authentic community for 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade
  - b. Youth Groups – local, community focused places for young people to be introduced to Christ and shaped as disciples generally for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade
  - c. Camping – outdoors experiences that connect with God, purpose and promote meaningful relationships for elementary through high school students.
  - d. Campus Ministries - places for college students to be introduced to Christ, shaped as disciples and developed as transformational leaders
4. *Community Development* – Leverage existing human, relational and capital resources to create opportunities for healing, renewal and transformation to communities and sustainable financial support streams for congregations
  - a. Repurpose church property into vibrant worship and mission centers
  - b. Repurpose church property into affordable housing, senior living, community space and mission centers
  - c. Create cooperative ministries within the community
5. *Hope Centers* – Develop church-based community ministry that meets the needs of the community and serves children and youth, families, seniors and vulnerable populations

We will develop and resource these strategies partnering with the GNJ family of vital mission partners – A Future With Hope, Next Generation Ministries, Centenary Fund and Preacher’s Aid Society and the United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of Greater New Jersey.

### **GNJ 2023 Objectives**

1. Develop resources to equip congregations to assess and improve their pathways for disciples to know, grow in, live and share the life of Jesus every day, *so that* we increase the number of new disciples and vital congregations.
2. Develop laity leadership resources to equip the local church with the knowledge and ability to effectively lead congregations and address challenges in their ministry, *so that* we grow more vital congregations.
3. Incorporate appropriate training, language and practices into resources, events, agency work, and conference life, *so that* we grow cultural competency within the life and ministry of GNJ.
4. Create methods to recruit, resource and support congregational youth leaders, *so that* they are equipped to lead and grow a youth program equal to 20% of their worshiping congregation and we grow youth engagement.
5. Clarify the process, resources and support for Hope Centers, *so that* we develop 30 Hope Centers focused on community mission with students, the poor and the elderly, and increase missional impact in the community

### **GNJ Core Resourcing to Carry Out Our Mission and Achieve Our Goal**

GNJ will resource congregations and leaders that are ready and desire to become vital and more like Christ primarily through:

- *Laity Leadership Academy* – coordinated teaching and skill development with application and funding opportunities for laity to grow vital ministries.
- *Coaching* – a resource to help clergy achieve ministry goals and action plans.
- *PaCE* - facilitated peer learning groups that help shape pastoral identity, imagination and excellence.
- *Mosaic Ministries* – a new way of thinking about and doing local church ministry, mission and leadership with promising young clergy and seminarians discerning their vocational calling.
- *Clergy Leadership Development Initiative* – tools and applications for clergy to lead congregations to sustainable fruitful ministry
- *Team Vital* – congregational community and ministry assessment and strategic planning process for vital ministry.
- *Communities of Hope* – strategic planning and implementation for asset-based community development.

### **What Will Be Different?**

As GNJ shifts the culture, accomplishes its goals and objectives, implements its strategies and resources leaders and congregations, it will see more disciples and congregations with:

- *Passionate Faith* – Mature and fearless disciples that others want to emulate
- *Boundless Hope* – Positive vision of current and future ministry
- *Courageous Spirit* – Risk-taking relevant mercy and justice ministries
- *Transformational Leadership* – Difference-makers who transform people's lives, the congregation and the community
- *Congregational Vitality* – Vibrant and life changing congregations
- *Regenerative Resources* – Extravagant generosity that inspires new giving and resources

## **GNJ Vision**

We see leaders cultivating disciples of Jesus Christ in vital congregations and faith communities with:

- *Passionate Faith* – Shape mature and fearless disciples that others want to emulate
- *Boundless Hope* – Inspire a positive vision of current and future ministry
- *Courageous Spirit* – Connect with the community through risk-taking relevant mercy and justice ministries
- *Transformational Leadership* – Change people’s lives, the congregation and the community
- *Congregational Vitality* – Worship God, make and grow passionate disciples, serve the community and give generously to mission
- *Regenerative Resources* – Develop innovative ways of supporting ministry

## **GNJ Mission**

Transform the world by recruiting and developing transformational leaders who make passionate disciples of Jesus Christ and grow vital congregations. (Matthew 28:19)

## **GNJ Core Values**

Our ministry will be shaped and guided by *being*:

- Christ-Centered – the *unbreakable and unifying source* of our faith and hope
- Compassionate and Just – a *shared expression* of our Wesleyan heritage
- Diverse – a *true reflection* of the all-welcoming nature of the reign of God
- Innovative and Risk-Taking – a *bridge* to what is next
- Excellent – a *gospel imperative* for greater impact in the world

## **A GNJ Disciple**

A Holy Spirit-led *follower of Christ* whose passion every day is to *know, grow in, live and share* the life of Jesus. (John 15:5)

## **A GNJ Vital Congregation**

A Holy Spirit-led *community of passionate disciples who are working together* to grow new disciples, inspiring worship, active small groups, risk taking community mission, and generous giving to mission. (Acts 2:42-47)

## **GNJ World Transformation**

A community where lives are changed, hope abounds, diversity is embraced, and all have the opportunity, knowledge and skills to live to their full God-given potential. (Micah 6:8, Luke 10:27)

## **A GNJ Leader**

A Holy Spirit-led *servant-leader* that forges a path forward where others do not see the way. A GNJ leader reaches out beyond the walls of the church into the community to transform lives by spreading God’s love, hope and justice and bearing witness to Jesus Christ. (Matthew 23:11, Philippians 4:13)

GNJ leaders are fruitful by growing new disciples, worship, small groups, mission engagement and giving. GNJ will work with and grow leaders to be:

- *Fruitful* – grow new passionate disciples, inspiring worship, active small groups, risk taking community mission, and generous giving to mission.
- *Transformational* – lead congregations through missional, cultural and identity change.

- *Apostolic*—are on a clear mission to create something more than what is. Paul was an apostolic leader who went to places with few or no believers and his leadership transformed the community by generating congregations of passionate disciples.

Because of GNJ leadership, disciples will be even more *passionate*, congregations will be even more *vibrant and fruitful* and people and communities will *experience healing, renewal and wholeness from God*.

### **How We Will Make Decisions?**

We will invest our financial and human resources in decisions that:

1. Develop transformational leaders
2. Maximize new disciples, vital congregations and world transformation
3. Reflect our core values
4. Encourage innovative, risk-taking regenerative ministry that effectively connects with and engage people in the community

### **Theological Grounding for GNJ 2019-23 Strategic Plan – *Miracles Everywhere***

*“You are the God who performs miracles; you display your powers among the peoples.”* Psalm 77:14

God is creating signs and wonders in GNJ and there is even more God wants to do. God wants to continue working through the United Methodists of Greater New Jersey so that miracles of healing and transformation occur across GNJ and around the world (Isaiah 43:19).

The Gospels tell of Jesus’ miracle ministry using two Greek words *dunamis* and *simaos*. In the synoptic Gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke, the Greek word *dunamis* is used which means power - God’s power to transform life. The Gospel of John primarily uses the word *simaos*, which means sign—a miracle that points to God’s activity in the world. Miracles evoke wonder by demonstrating God’s power and pointing to God’s work in the world. In every age, God has been at work in the world healing and transforming lives.

Miracles happen everywhere. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the congregation, the body of Christ, is the primary actor to release the power of God to transform lives and the community (1 Corinthians 12:27). The congregation is the mission outpost where passionate disciples are formed, shaped and sent to love God and neighbors completely (Mathew 28:16-20).

Transformational leadership within congregations is crucial to fulfilling this mission (Ephesians 4:11-12) to release the Holy Spirit for miracles everywhere. Leaders who move the mission and turnaround forward are grounded theologically and biblically, possess competence and emotional intelligence, engage missionally and passionately, and are led spiritually.

As the church navigates through liminal times (a transitional time on the edge of what God has next for the church), the Spirit is calling GNJ to address our adaptive challenge and engage in new possibilities with courage (II Timothy 1:7). We are called to continue to imagine and discern innovative ways to effectively be in ministry in and with the community (Romans 12:2) so that we cultivate transformational leaders who make disciples and grow vital congregations to transform the world.

God is already working wonders in GNJ and is ready to perform miracles everywhere through passionate disciples, vital congregations and transformational leaders!

## Committee on Nominations

(Those to be elected since the last session of Annual Conference)

### **Nominations to Individual Leadership and Board, Agencies, and Committee Membership**

#### **Council on Youth Ministries ¶649**

Class of 2020

Rosemary Rentas (L)

#### **Council on Young Adult Ministries ¶650**

Class of 2020

Laura Fischer-Leskowits (L)

#### **Board of Global Ministries ¶633**

Class of 2019

Michael Yang (L)

Class of 2020

Dawn Corlew (C)     Diana Yamoah (L)

#### **Board of Discipleship ¶630**

Class of 2019

Shawn Callender-Hogan (C)     Fred Muller (L)

Class of 2020

Lakesha Groover (C)

#### **Board of Church and Society ¶629**

Class of 2019

McWilliam Colon (C)

Class of 2020

Tanya Bennett

#### **Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns ¶632**

Class of 2019

Michael Brown (L)

Class of 2020

Michael Reed (C)

#### **Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry ¶634**

Class of 2020

Mary Sitgraves (L)

#### **Commission on Status and Role of Women ¶644**

Class of 2020

Judy Hopkins (L)

#### **Commission on Communications ¶646**

Class of 2020

Corbin Payne (L)     Frank Friend (L) **Commission on Archives and History ¶ 641**

Class of 2019

Meekyung Choi Kim (C)

Class of 2020

Mark Shenise (L)

**Commission on Christian Unity and Inter-Religious Concerns ¶1642**

Class of 2019

Derrick Davis (L)

Class of 2020

Ninabeth Metcalf (C) Veronica Palmer (C)

**Commission on Religion and Race ¶1643**

Class of 2020

Erin Markan (L) Chuck Coblentz (C)

**Commission on Small Church Membership ¶1645**

Class of 2020

Sarah Borgstrom Lee (C) Carol Hutchison (C)

**Committee on Disability Concerns ¶1653**

Class of 2020

Kevin Davis (C)

**Committee on Parish and Community Development ¶1633.5**

Class of 2019

Betty Sayner (L)

Class of 2020

Marilyn Powell (L)

**Commission on Equitable Compensation ¶1625.1**

Class of 2020

Wren Hillis (C)

**Committee on Native American Ministries ¶1654**

Class of 2020

Anna Gillette (C)

**Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries ¶1655**

Class of 2020

Ricardo Canfield (C) Steve Chung (L) Marcia Tatem (L)

Class of 2019

Annemaris Dominguez (L)

**Committee on Rules of Order**

Class of 2019

Vicki Brendler (C)

Class of 2020

Cherese Evans (C) **Board of Pension ¶1639**

Class of 2026

Erica Munoz (C) Jeanette Block (C)

**Board of Trustees ¶1640 and 2512**

Class of 2022

Clark Callender (C) Eric Lenander (L)

**Committee on Investigation of a Clergy Member ¶2703.2, 2008 BOD**

Hosuk Chung (C) Rosario Quiñonez (L)

**A Future with Hope, Board of Trustees**

Class of 2021

Wilbert Mitchell (L) Patricia Morton (L) Bishop John Schol Niurca Louis (L)

**Next Generation Ministries, Board of Trustees**

Class of 2021

Sang Won Doh (C) Debbe Barnett (C) Iraida Ruiz de Porras (C)

**Centenary Fund and Preachers Aid Society**

Class of 2021

Ken Helsby (L) David Wiley (C) Charles Bender (C) John “Jack” Scharf (L)

**GNJ Educational Society**

Class of 2021

Kyle Cuperwich (C)

**United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of New Jersey**

Class of 2020

David Montanye (C) Roxanna Hammett (L)

**The Pennington School – Board of Trustees**

Class of 2022

Virginia Cetuk Jordan Gray Dennis Keating David Mertz Cecilia Rouse Timothy Vile

**United Methodist Communities – Board of Directors**

Class of 2019

Ed Carll

Class of 2020

Grant Karsner

Class of 2022

Richard Rinck

Class of 2023

Bob Muir

**The Wesley Foundation Board at Princeton**

Kate Hillis Eric Matson Jessica Winderweedle

## DISTRICT COMMITTEES

### **Gateway North District**

#### **Board of Church and Location ¶12519**

##### Class of 2021

Y C Chang (L) Michael Ernst (L)

### **Palisades District**

#### **Board of Church and Location ¶12519**

##### Class of 2021

Myungsun Han (C)

##### Class of 2020

Thomas Kemper (L)

##### Class of 2019

Joyce McKnight-Young (L) Hannah Lee (C)

#### **Committee on District Superintendency ¶1669**

Mary Bland (L) Michael Federico (L) Sung Kwon Kim (L)

#### **District Committee on Ordained Ministry ¶1666**

Marvin Wills (C) K Al Branch (L) Ellen Koh (L)

#### **District Poverty Task Force**

Pat Bruger (C) Kay Dubuisson (C) Sung Il Lee (C) Rosa Williams (L) Alisa Lee (L) Cathy Altobello (L)

### **Skylands District**

#### **Committee on District Superintendency ¶1669**

Nick Petrov (C) Kaleigh Corbett (C) Kim Burse (L)

#### **District Committee on Ordained Ministry ¶1666**

Heather Valosin (C)

### **Capital District**

#### **Board of Church and Location ¶12519**

##### Class of 2021

Paul Fenn (C) David Gardner (C) Joanie Stayton Randall (L)

##### Class of 2019

Michael Wright (L)

#### **Committee on District Superintendency ¶1669**

Andrew Paek (C) Erik Matson (C) Sammy Arroyo (C)

#### **District Committee on Ordained Ministry ¶1666**

Jana Purkis-Brash (C) Jenny Smith-Walz (C) Anna Gillette (C)

#### **District Poverty Task Force**

Kyle Cuperwisch (C) Ronald Sager (C) Moses Jarta Flomo (C)

**Northern Shore District**

**Board of Church and Location ¶2519**

Class of 2021

Tracy Estes (L) Bill Wentzien (L) Iraida Ruiz de Porras (C)

**Raritan Valley District**

**Board of Church and Location ¶2519**

Class of 2021

Carole Otte (L)

**Committee on District Superintendency ¶669**

Samuel Perez (L) Ken Helsby (L) Peter Espeut (L)

**District Committee on Ordained Ministry ¶666**

Cameron Overbey (C) William Williams (C)

**Cape Atlantic District**

**Board of Church and Location ¶2519**

Class of 2021

Garry Rogers

**District Committee on Ordained Ministry ¶666**

Linda Ross (C) Christopher Miller (C)

**Delaware Bay District**

**District Lay Leader:** Terri Ganderton

**Board of Church and Location ¶2519**

Class of 2021

Thomas Perry (C) Elizabeth Ealie (C)

**Committee on District Superintendency ¶669**

Susan Flicker (C)

**Gateway South District**

**Board of Church and Location ¶2519**

Class of 2021

Joann Goldsborough (L) Alex Mayer (L) Jim Neilland (L)

Submitted by,

Rosa Williams, Chair of Nominations

## Trustees Enabling Resolutions

**Be it resolved** that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church hereby ratifies, approves and confirms actions taken by the Conference Board of Trustees since the last Annual Session.

**Be it further resolved** that if subsequent to this Annual Session of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and prior to the 2019 Annual Session, any property, real or personal, that is conveyed or transferred to the Annual Conference by any church or other person, firm, partnership, or corporation, the Board of Trustees is hereby authorized and empowered, in its discretion, provided that the same be approved by the Bishop and Cabinet, to sell, transfer, lease or convey any such real or personal property for such price, and at such time or times, and upon such other terms and conditions as the Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church shall determine; and

**Be it further resolved** that the proper officers of the Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church be and hereby are authorized in the name, and on behalf of the Conference, to execute and deliver the Conference deed of conveyance or instrument of transfer and all other instruments and documents to implement and carry out the purpose and intent of the foregoing resolution, and to affix the corporate seal of the Conference thereto; and

**Be it further resolved** that the President or Vice-President or Treasurer of the Corporation is hereby fully authorized and empowered to transfer, convey, endorse, sell, assign, and deliver any and all stock, bonds, evidence of interest and/or indebtedness, and all other securities, corporate or otherwise, now or hereafter standing in the name or owned by this Corporation and to make, execute, and deliver, any property to effectuate the authority hereby conferred; and

**Be it further resolved** that whenever there shall be annexed to any instrument of assignment and transfer, executed pursuant to and in accordance with the foregoing resolution, a certificate of Secretary or of an Assistant Secretary of this Corporation in the office at the date of such certificate shall set forth these resolutions and shall state that these resolutions are in full force and effect, then all persons to whom such instrument with the annexed certificate shall thereafter come, shall be entitled, without further inquiry or investigation and regardless of the date of such certificate, to assume and to act in reliance upon the assumptions that the shares of stock or other securities named in such instrument were therefore duly and properly transferred, endorsed, sold, assigned, set over and delivered by this Corporation, and that with respect to such securities the authority of these resolutions and of such officers is still in full force and effect; and

**Be it further resolved** that subsequent to this Annual Session of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and prior to the 2019 Annual Session, the Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference is hereby authorized to acquire or dispose of District parsonages, Program Director's and Treasurer's residences, as in its discretion, it may deem necessary and advisable, and in accordance with The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church. The Conference Board of Trustees is hereby authorized and empowered to enter into such contracts of sale and such other documents as may be necessary to effectuate the sale, transfer, or purchase of such properties. Such properties, real or personal, may be sold or acquired from any person or persons, firm,

partnership, or corporation upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church shall determine; and

**Be it further resolved** that the proper officers of the Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church are hereby empowered and authorized to execute all such deeds, mortgages, notes, bonds, and other documents necessary to implement the purchase or sale of such Conference-owned properties.

Submitted by:

Clifford Still, President, GNJAC Board of Trustees

## Nehemiah Properties, Inc. Statement of Relationship

The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church (“GNJ”) recruits and develops transformational leaders to make disciples and grow vital congregations to transform the world. This mission is primarily carried out through the congregations that make up GNJ. GNJ’s primary commitment is to increase the vitality of all our congregations.

GNJ also works with and through Vital Mission Partners. These partners compliment and extend mission the mission by supporting and or engaging with GNJ with any of the following:

- Recruit and develop leaders
- Make new and grow existing disciples
- Assist congregations to grow vitality
- Engage disciples in hands on mission
- Develop and manage Hope Centers to serve communities
- Lead community development and service ministries
- Raise funds to support the mission of GNJ

Nehemiah Properties, Inc. (hereinafter “Nehemiah”), assists the Conference, Board of Trustees, its congregations and other United Methodist entities in selling, repurposing or developing property so that we maximize mission opportunities through property and/or increase financial resources for mission.

Although the Annual Conference and Nehemiah share missional purposes and goals and although both support conformity with the high standards of service, each recognizes the other as an independent entity, making independent governing decisions.

Nehemiah offers members of local churches in GNJ opportunities to serve in mission in various ways including as members of its Board of Trustees ("Board"). The persons elected as Trustees do not represent, nor are they amenable to GNJ. The Trustees of Nehemiah act autonomously from GNJ.

The Bishop or the Bishop's designate will serve on the Board of Nehemiah with voice and vote. The Treasurer of the Annual Conference will serve on the Board of Nehemiah as an ex officio member of the Board with voice but without vote.

The President of Nehemiah shall provide a written report through the preconference journal to GNJ at its annual session. The roster of the Board of Nehemiah will be included in GNJ's Journal.

Nehemiah will recommend nominees to the GNJ nominations committee who will move the nominations before the Annual Conference session who will elect Trustees of the Nehemiah Board. Nominees will have the skills necessary to serve the Board and ensure a diverse Board.

GNJ encourages and recommends that local churches and individuals contribute to the financial support of Nehemiah. This support is voluntary and without guarantee of amount or continuation. GNJ does not guarantee nor assume any responsibility for the obligations of Nehemiah.

The legal and financial relationships between GNJ and Nehemiah shall also be governed and controlled through a shared services agreement ("Services Agreement") with GNJ's rights and obligations being represented through its Council on Finance and Administration. The Services Agreement may be amended when deemed proper by GNJ and Nehemiah. All provisions of the Services Agreement are to be construed based on the principle that each party is independent of each other and separately responsible for its own actions.

This Statement of Relationship shall be reviewed and amended as necessary by Nehemiah and GNJ upon recommendation of their appropriate committees and Board. The date of approval by each of the parties shall be stated on the agreement.

Note: The Relationship Statement is required by The Discipline, (2012), Conference Board of Global Ministries, ¶633.4.b.(27) "The annual conference and each health and welfare institution shall have a clearly stated document that describes their legal and financial relationships; provided that no such document shall impose as a party to it The United Methodist Church and/or the General Board of Global Ministries."

**Be it resolved** that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church adopts the Statement of Relationship with Nehemiah Properties, Inc.

Submitted by,  
Clifford Still, Chair, Board of Trustees

## Conference 5 Year Projected Budget Analysis

### Assumptions:

- 5-year budget analysis is based on 2019 Shared Ministry Plan attached.
- Apportionment Base starts at \$68,000,000 and decreases by \$750,000 in 2019 and increases by \$250,000 in 2022.
- Shared Ministry calculation will start at 16.3% of base in 2018 and decrease to 15.6% in 2022.
- Anticipated Collection rate starts at 90% in 2018 and increases to 93.0% by 2022.
- 2018 Expenses have been adjusted for 5% underspending and will increase by 1.5% per year thereafter.
  - Includes \$200,000 reduction per year for Retiree Health Costs starting in 2019.
  - Includes reductions for the below redirected compensation costs.

- In 2021, the Dir of Stewardship compensation estimated at \$169,000 to be redirected to the Foundation.
- In 2022, the Dir of Mission compensation estimated at \$169,000 to be redirected to AFWH.

○  
**Conference 5 Year Projected Budget Analysis**  
**Gradual Transition from Current 16.3% of Base to 15.6%**  
**Gradual Shared Ministry Giving Rate from 90%-93%**

<b>Proposed Shared Ministry Plan</b>					
<b>Income</b>	<b>Current</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>SM Base</b>	68,000,000	67,250,000	67,250,000	67,250,000	67,500,000
<b>Shared Ministry Percentage</b>	<b>16.3%</b>	<b>16.1%</b>	<b>15.9%</b>	<b>15.7%</b>	<b>15.6%</b>
<b>Shared Ministry Apportioned</b>	11,084,000	10,827,250	10,692,750	10,558,250	10,530,000
<b>Expected SM Giving Rate</b>	<b>90.0%</b>	<b>91.5%</b>	<b>92.0%</b>	<b>92.5%</b>	<b>93.0%</b>
<b>Expected Available SM</b>	<b>9,975,600</b>	<b>9,906,934</b>	<b>9,837,330</b>	<b>9,766,381</b>	<b>9,792,900</b>
<b>Investment</b>	70,000	72,800	75,712	78,740	81,890
<b>Centenary Fund</b>	100,000	103,000	106,090	109,273	112,551
<b>Surplus</b>	308,000	258,000	208,000	175,000	175,000
<b>Shared Services Income</b>	425,000	437,750	450,883	464,409	478,341
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>10,878,600</b>	<b>10,778,484</b>	<b>10,678,015</b>	<b>10,593,803</b>	<b>10,640,682</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>					
<b>Fund 100</b>	4,345,509	4,210,691	4,073,852	3,934,959	3,793,984
<b>Fund 200</b>	2,403,157	2,439,204	2,475,792	2,512,929	2,550,623
<b>Fund 300</b>	3,450,794	3,502,556	3,555,095	3,439,421	3,322,012
<b>Fund 410</b>	181,287	184,006	186,766	189,568	192,411
<b>Fund 420</b>	40,571	41,180	41,797	42,424	43,061
<b>Fund 430</b>	404,478	400,846	406,859	412,962	419,156
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>10,825,796</b>	<b>10,778,484</b>	<b>10,740,161</b>	<b>10,532,264</b>	<b>10,321,248</b>
<b>Budget Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>52,804</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(62,147)</b>	<b>61,540</b>	<b>319,435</b>

## 2019 SHARED MINISTRY PLAN

<b>INCOME:</b>			
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Expected</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>
SM Base	69,494,926	68,000,000	67,250,000
Shared Ministry Percentage	17.2%	16.3%	16.1%
Shared Ministry Apportioned	11,978,542	11,084,000	10,827,250
Expected SM Giving Rate	88.0%	90.0%	91.5%
Expected Available SM	10,521,634	9,975,600	9,906,934
Investment	70,000	70,000	72,800
Centenary Fund	100,000	100,000	103,000
Shared Services Income	100,000	425,000	437,750
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>10,791,634</b>	<b>10,570,600</b>	<b>10,520,484</b>
<b>EXPENSE:</b>			
<b>CLERGY SUPPORT</b>			
A. District Superintendents Salary, Benefits & Office Exp.	1,631,042	1,690,824	1,741,549
B. Episcopal Fund	407,795	382,545	374,064
C. Conference share of Bishop's housing	29,987	28,135	28,135
D. Annuitants Health Insurance & Benefits	2,112,902	2,088,112	1,896,112
E. Equitable Compensation	156,599	158,400	158,400
F. Conference Board of Ordained Ministry administrative expenses	48,183	41,163	41,163
G. Bridge Fund	66,000	34,560	67,200
<b>TOTAL CLERGY SUPPORT</b>	<b>4,452,508</b>	<b>4,423,739</b>	<b>4,306,623</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>			
A. Conference Council on Finance and Administration expenses	1,621	3,840	3,840
B. Conference Staff	1,189,606	1,012,442	1,048,584
C. Administrative Expenses	499,709	433,051	433,051
D. Conf. Sessions (3 days)	237,075	231,831	231,831
E. Episcopal Area Office Supplement	141,678	141,003	141,003
F. Bishop's Discretionary Fund	10,000	9,600	9,600
G. Jurisdictional conference administrative apportionments & related exp.	37,968	36,480	36,480
H. General Administration Fund	163,511	153,387	149,987
I. Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	36,374	34,121	33,366
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>2,317,542</b>	<b>2,055,756</b>	<b>2,087,742</b>
<b>WORLD SERVICE AND CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCE</b>			
A. World Service Fund	1,354,723	1,291,766	1,263,131
B. Connectional Ministry Staff	845,139	926,258	954,045
C. Administrative Expenses	205,907	196,800	196,800
D. Connectional Table	843,092	884,433	884,433
E. Supplemental Strategic Salary Support	139,314	134,400	134,400
<b>TOTAL WORLD SERVICE/CONF.BEN.</b>	<b>3,388,175</b>	<b>3,433,657</b>	<b>3,432,809</b>
<b>OTHER APPORTIONED FUNDS</b>			
A. Black College Fund	185,523	174,036	170,177
B. Africa University Fund	41,519	38,948	38,085
C. Ministerial Education Fund	339,128	388,299	426,627
<b>TOTAL OTHER FUNDS</b>	<b>566,170</b>	<b>601,283</b>	<b>634,889</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>10,724,395</b>	<b>10,514,434</b>	<b>10,462,062</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>67,239</b>	<b>56,166</b>	<b>58,421</b>

## Conference Benevolence Budget

Calendar Year 2019 Budget	2017	2018	2019
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Expected</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
<b>Board of Church and Society</b>	<b>2,046</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>Discipleship</b>	<b>181,702</b>	<b>182,000</b>	<b>181,000</b>
Board of Discipleship	179	1,000	1,000
Camps & Conferences	181,523	181,000	180,000
<b>Global Ministries</b>	<b>14,083</b>	<b>19,700</b>	<b>18,000</b>
Board of Global Ministries	1,906	2,000	2,500
Disaster Response	1,910	5,700	4,500
Mission School	10,267	12,000	11,000
<b>Board Higher Education &amp; Campus Ministry</b>	<b>53,212</b>	<b>65,000</b>	<b>65,000</b>
<b>Board of Laity</b>	<b>15,596</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>13,000</b>
<b>Commission on Archives and History</b>	<b>4,824</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>7,000</b>
<b>Christian Unity/Inter. Concerns</b>	<b>19,088</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>18,000</b>
Commission on Christian Unity/Inter. Concerns	4,088	5,000	4,000
NJ Council of Churches	15,000	15,000	14,000
<b>Commission on Religion and Race</b>	<b>2,563</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>8,000</b>
<b>Commission on Small Membership Church</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Commission on the Status and Role of Women</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>Committee on Disability Concerns</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Ethnic Local Church Concerns</b>	<b>32,622</b>	<b>44,500</b>	<b>51,000</b>
Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns	0	2,500	1,000
Korean American National Plan	15,000	10,000	18,000
Strengthening the Black Church Plan	518	12,000	12,000
National Hispanic Plan	17,104	20,000	20,000
<b>Committee on Native American Ministry</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Council on Young Adults</b>	<b>3,272</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Youth Ministry</b>	<b>27,095</b>	<b>34,500</b>	<b>34,500</b>
Council of Youth	4,595	12,000	12,000
Ignite	22,500	22,500	22,500
<b>United Methodist Men</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Sub-Total - Conference Sch. D Benevolence Budget</b>	<b>356,408</b>	<b>414,500</b>	<b>415,000</b>
<b>Community Outreach Grants</b>	<b>179,583</b>	<b>182,250</b>	<b>182,250</b>
<b>Connectional Table</b>	<b>24,760</b>	<b>16,183</b>	<b>16,683</b>
<b>Congregational Development</b>	<b>38,285</b>	<b>42,500</b>	<b>42,500</b>
<b>Emerging Needs</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>17,000</b>
<b>District Resourcing</b>	<b>124,293</b>	<b>125,000</b>	<b>125,000</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>39,173</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>
<b>Relay</b>	<b>53,590</b>	<b>66,000</b>	<b>66,000</b>
<b>Resource Center</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>19 843,092</b>	<b>884,433</b>	<b>884,433</b>

## Shared Ministry Apportionment Formula 2019

**Whereas** the United Methodist Church continues our focus to grow Vital Congregations; and

**Whereas** in GNJ we remain focused on developing vital congregations and prayerfully do so through our financial stewardship; and therefore

**Be it resolved** that the Shared Ministry percentage be set at 16.1% of a congregation's Shared Ministry base for the 2019 budget and that each year the Annual Conference approve the Shared Ministry percentage with a goal of achieving a Shared Ministry percentage of 15.6% over the next four years. The Shared Ministry base be set at a congregation's total expenses as follows:

1. Lines 41a-47 of Table II of The Local Church Statistical Report
  - 41a – Pastor Wages
  - 41b – Associate Pastor Wages
  - 41c – Deacon Wages
  - 42 – Parsonage Expenses
  - 43 – Accountable Reimbursements
  - 44 – Other Cash Allowances
  - 45 – Staff Compensation
  - 46 – Church Program Expenses
  - 47 – Church Operating Expenses
2. Billed amounts for prior year Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP), Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), Health Insurance, Property Insurance and Workers Comp

**Rationale:** This existing formula uses the present Shared Ministry base calculation but prevents automatic percentage increases and requires GNJ to set budgets that are within a fixed percentage of the Shared Ministry base. In effect, this will reduce the overall Shared Ministry apportionment to congregations by \$249,043 in 2019 and will reduce each congregation's shared ministry percentage for 2019. The percent apportioned goal is to be 15.6% within the next four years which is lower than at the time of merger in 2003.

Submitted by:  
Robert Dietz, Chair of CF&A

## Pension and Health Benefits Recommendations

**Be it resolved** that the Past Service Annuity Rate for January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 be set at \$685 per approved service year prior to January 1, 1982.

**Be it further resolved**

1. That effective January 1, 2019, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference will continue to sponsor CRSP for full-time, three-quarter time, and one-half time clergy and continue to sponsor UMPIP for those clergy in one-quarter time appointments.
2. That contributions for January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 for the Clergy Retirement Security Program for full-time and less-than-full-time ( $\frac{3}{4}$ -time &  $\frac{1}{2}$ -time) clergy, and for Conference sponsored UMPIP Plan for  $\frac{1}{4}$ -time clergy, be set at 12.5% of plan compensation.
3. That contributions for January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 for the Comprehensive Protection Plan be set at 3% of plan compensation for full-time and  $\frac{3}{4}$ -time ordained clergy, and for Conference Sponsored UMLife Options for  $\frac{1}{2}$ -time ordained clergy to be set 2% of plan compensation. That local churches may sponsor  $\frac{1}{4}$ -time ordained clergy and  $\frac{3}{4}$ -time part-time local pastors in UMLife Options.
4. That the starting date for retirement payments for new retirees commences July 1, 2018, unless otherwise stated.
5. That grants approved in lieu of pension to Bernard Shropshire are continued through 2019.
  - a. That the following members of the former Southern Conference be grand-parented in terms of eligibility for conference-paid health benefits. Specifically, the following persons, upon becoming annuitants with at least 10 years of service, will be eligible for Conference-paid health benefits: Edward F. Conway, Ruth Propert Taenzer, Jae Jeong Shim, Mildred E. Bender, Charles H. Mayer, J. Evans Dodds, Eileen Murphy, Nicholas Connolly, Daniel Gueh, William R. Hess, and Charles D. Mitchell.
  - b. That Robert L. Webster and family be eligible for Conference-paid health benefits upon retirement and receiving an annuity.
6. That Rev. Patricia Bruger's actual years of appointment and service at CUMAC/ECHO, INC. from June 16, 1995 through retirement be fully credited for the purpose of calculation of service year credits to determine allocation of pro-rated health insurance premium payment responsibility upon retirement.
7. That the following clergy be grand-parented to five years "under appointment through the Conference immediately prior to retirement" to meet eligibility requirements for health benefits in retirement, rather than the seven years as approved at the 2011 Annual Conference meeting (Paragraph 3 under Eligibility, p. 365 of the 2011 Conference Journal). Specifically, the following persons, if, at the time of retirement, meet all other eligibility requirements for health insurance in retirement, shall be grand-parented under this provision: Rev. Vena Murphy, Rev. William Jacobsen, Rev. Christina Zito and Rev. Sherrie Dobbs Johnson.
8. That clergy participants in the Conference Health Insurance Plan who have expenses associated with the adoption of a child will be reimbursed up to \$10,000 per child upon the presentation of the necessary documentation.
9. The Greater NJ Annual Conference (the "Conference") adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

**Be it resolved** that an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the "Discipline"), which includes all such payments from the Wespeth Benefits and Investments, during the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, by each active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such clergyperson; and

That the pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance designation applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from Wespeth and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespeth plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a clergy person rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled clergy person of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the clergy person to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled clergy person's pension, severance, or disability plan benefit as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a clergy person's gross income in any year for federal (and, in most cases, state) income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2), and regulations there under, to the least of: (a) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the clergy person's employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (b) the amount actually expended by the clergy person to rent or provide a home in such year; or (c) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year. Each clergy person or former clergy person is urged to consult with his or her own tax advisor to determine what deferred compensation is eligible to be claimed as a housing allowance exclusion.

1. That clergy retiring before July 1, 2019 be reimbursed for one time moving expenses up to \$5,000.00 incurred while moving from church-owned housing to personal housing. This reimbursement is limited to actual moving expenses, not to include moving company packing costs. The same benefits and restrictions shall also apply to a surviving spouse moving out of the parsonage upon the death of a pastor while in active service in the Annual Conference, and to those entering disabled relationships.
2. That the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits be authorized to make modifications to the current Insurance Plan as the health care market demands. In addition, modifications to the Plan that could reduce premium costs to local churches and Annual Conference are to be studied and enacted as the Board determines appropriate. These changes might include increased participant deductibles, co-payments, greater use of generic medications, and other avenues of cost saving and sharing. Such changes will be subject to prior review of CFA and the Cabinet.
3. That the Guidelines for Health Insurance Participation, below, be approved and upon approval printed in the 2018 Conference Journal and Yearbook.

Submitted by:  
William Wilson, Chair, Board of Pensions

## Clergy Equitable Compensation for 2019

**Be it resolved** that the Annual Conference adopt the following recommendation for minimum salary for persons under full-time appointment in the local church effective January 1, 2019:

<b>a) Elder and Deacon in Full Connection</b>	<b>\$45,084</b>
<b>b) Provisional &amp; Associate Members (93%)</b>	<b>\$41,928</b>
<b>c) Full time Local Pastor (88%)</b>	<b>\$39,674</b>

Any changes in clergy minimum salaries related to a change of clergy status through ordination, commissioning or licensing in 2018 will become effective as of January 1, 2019.

There will be a 2% increase in the base salary for each year of completed full-time service under appointment up to 15 years, based on the 2018 Minimum Equitable Salaries.

This applies to clergy (elder, provisional elder, provisional deacon, deacon in full connection, associate members, and local pastor) serving in full-time appointments. The years of service record for each clergy can be found on the Clergy Service Record at the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and it does not include part time appointments or a time of leave of absence.

The minimum equitable salary for  $\frac{3}{4}$  time pastoral appointments shall be  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the required minimum in the pastor's salary. And the minimum equitable salary for  $\frac{1}{2}$  time pastoral appointments shall be  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the required minimum. All appointments less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  shall be considered  $\frac{1}{4}$  time appointments for pension purposes and the salaries shall be determined by the District Superintendent in consultation with the pastor and the local church.

Each pastor's salary above the minimum equitable salary is determined by the local church or by the charge in consultation with the district superintendent. Each Pastor (Staff) Parish Relations Committee takes into consideration the pastor's experience, education, leadership, health and dental insurance coverage, social security, and family needs.

All full-time pastors shall be provided with a parsonage or a housing/rental allowance as part of their compensation package.

All full-time pastors shall have an accountable reimbursement expense line item in the church budget to cover mileage for pastoral work, continuing education, and other professional ministerial expenses as allowed by the IRS. This reimbursable amount shall be at least \$2,500. For the churches that are receiving Equitable Compensation support, their accountable reimbursement expense line should not exceed \$2,500.

All full-time pastors shall be entitled to receive the following vacation per appointment year:

Minimum 4 weeks of vacation for the first 10 years of full-time service, after that it is 5 weeks. Vacation time shall not be cumulative from year to year. Local churches may not consider time spent in leadership responsibilities in conference activities as vacation time. This includes Course of Study, Local Pastors Licensing School, Camps, Annual Conference-related Ministries, and other education and renewal as required by The Book of Discipline (§350.2).

### Minimum Equitable Salaries

Years of Service	2018 Salary for Clergy in Full Connection	Salaries for 2019		
		Clergy in Full Connection	Provisional & Associate Members 93%	Full Time Local Pastors 88%
0	\$44,200	\$45,084	\$41,928	\$39,674
1	\$44,500	\$45,390	\$42,213	\$39,943
2	\$44,800	\$45,696	\$42,497	\$40,212
3	\$45,100	\$46,002	\$42,782	\$40,482
4	\$45,400	\$46,308	\$43,066	\$40,751
5	\$45,700	\$46,614	\$43,351	\$41,020
6	\$46,000	\$46,920	\$43,636	\$41,290
7	\$46,300	\$47,226	\$43,920	\$41,559
8	\$46,600	\$47,532	\$44,205	\$41,828
9	\$46,900	\$47,838	\$44,489	\$42,097
10	\$47,200	\$48,144	\$44,774	\$42,367
11	\$47,500	\$48,450	\$45,059	\$42,636
12	\$47,800	\$48,756	\$45,343	\$42,905
13	\$48,100	\$49,062	\$45,628	\$43,175
14	\$48,400	\$49,368	\$45,912	\$43,444
15	\$48,700	\$49,674	\$46,197	\$43,713

Each pastor's salary above the minimum equitable salary is determined by the local church or by the charge in consultation with the district superintendent. Please refer to the Conference Journal for additional information.

There is a 2% increase in the base salary (based on the 2018 minimum salary) for each year of full-time service up to 15 years.

Years of service is determined by the number of complete full years of pastoral service

Submitted by:  
Christine Day, Chair, Commission on Equitable Compensation

## 2018 Health Insurance Guidelines

The mission of the Conference Health Insurance Plan (the Plan) is to provide primary health insurance coverage to full-time full, provisional, and associate ministerial members, and full-time local pastors of the Annual Conference and to eligible full-time lay employees.

The Plan provides secondary health insurance coverage for retirees who are receiving Medicare which requires both Medicare Parts A & B for coverage. For those who have retired early and are not yet eligible for Medicare, primary health insurance coverage is through the same plan as those in active ministry. The Plan is a non-vested current benefit for active and retired pastors and lay employees.

### Eligibility

#### 1. Clergy Eligibility:

(a) Active clergy under full-time Episcopal appointment to serve a local church including Elders, Deacons, Local Pastors, Associate Members, and Provisional Members

(b) Those under full-time appointment as district superintendents, clergy staff members of Conference councils and boards, treasurers, bishop's assistants, or directors of parish development, general evangelists and campus ministers for whom the Conference provides pension contribution to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) who are:

- a full elder or associate member (other than a missionary) (Book of Discipline ¶344.1a(1))
- or an ordained clergyperson from another annual conference or another Methodist denomination (Book of Discipline ¶344.1a(1), ¶346.1)
- an ordained clergyperson from another denomination if not covered by the group health plan of the denomination to which he/she belongs. (Book of Discipline ¶344.1a(1), ¶346.2)

(c) Enrollment in the Active health insurance plan must be completed within 31 days of appointment.

(d) Waiving coverage in the Plan - Contact the Benefits Specialist for required documents. Documents must be completed and returned within enrollment deadline periods

- within 31 days of initial eligibility; or
- once per year during the Conference open enrollment period for the following January 1; or
- within 31 days of an open enrollment period for a spouse's plan; beginning January 1, 2016.
- see PREMIUM PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY – ACTIVE for Waived Coverage Fees.

a. Participant must certify that:

- The plan is through a former employment or a spouse's current or former employment. Proof of such coverage is required.
- The plan is not a marketplace plan. Under these guidelines and marketplace rules, Full-time clergy are ineligible for any Premium Tax Credit.

b. Re-admittance to the plan is during any open enrollment period, or within 31 days of a Special Enrollment event (loss of other coverage, employment status change, divorce, death of a spouse, or gain a dependent).

(e) Clergy in any category under Episcopal appointment to full-time service in an Extension Ministry [¶344.1a (3)(4); 344.1b; 344.1d; 331.1a,b; 326.1; 331.8; 346.1; 346.2], may enroll in the Plan within 31 days of initial appointment. Late enrollments are permitted only during the Annual Election Period or in the case of a Special Enrollment event - loss of other coverage, employment status change, divorce, death of a spouse, or gain a dependent.

(f) Part-time clergy in any category are not eligible for coverage through the Plan.

**2. Ministerial members who are placed on Medical Leave status by the Conference** shall continue enrollment in the Plan regardless of whether they are eligible for Medicare disability benefits. The Conference Plan remains primary until the participant becomes eligible for Medicare due to disability, at which time the Conference Plan becomes secondary to Medicare. Beginning January 1, 2016, participants obtaining Medicare due to disability, may choose to remain in the Active Health Plan as their secondary insurance, or to enroll in the United HealthCare Retiree Plan (Medicare Advantage Plan). The premiums for ministerial members on Conference Medical Leave (and their enrolled family) will be paid by the Conference with Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits funds.

**3. Clergy in Retired Status** may be in the Plan if they were under appointment through the Conference for the seven years immediately prior to retirement. Retired participants and spouses age 65 and over are required to carry Medicare Part A and Part B in order to be eligible for Conference insurance in retirement. Monthly premium for Part A if any, and for Part B is a personal expense. A Retiree (and eligible dependents) not enrolling (waiving coverage) in the Plan at the time of retirement, or who left the plan as a retiree, may enroll during any open enrollment period, or within 31 days of a Special Enrollment event (including but not limited to voluntary or involuntary loss of coverage) (refer to Clergy Eligibility #1, subparagraph 1d). For dependent eligibility, see #5 under "Eligibility."

**4.** Any of the following lay persons are eligible to enroll in the Plan upon application within 31 days of hire. Late enrollments are permitted only during the Annual Election Period as allowed by the Plan, or in the case of a Special Enrollment Event - loss of other coverage, employment status change, divorce, death of a spouse, or gain a dependent.

(a) Lay employees of the Conference or any of its subsidiary agencies working a minimum of 1,560 hours annually (30hrs. per week)

(b) Full-time (minimum of 1,560 hours annually) lay employees of any church in the Conference that adopts the program, completes a Salary Paying Unit Sub-Adoption Agreement, and whose church enrolls a minimum of 75% of its full-time lay employees.

(c) Retired lay employees of the Conference, local churches, Conference-affiliated UM institutions, the Episcopal office, units of the Conference whose lay employees are not on the Conference payroll, and the surviving spouse of such employees, may participate in the Plan provided they have received or will receive a UMPIP benefit from Wespath Benefits and Investments through their salary-paying unit.

**5. Dependents eligible for coverage** in the Conference Plan are limited to the spouse, children who are qualified adult dependents, and children who are under age 26. Dependents may be added only during the Annual Election Period as allowed by the Plan, or in the case of a Special Enrollment event - loss of other coverage, employment status change, divorce, death of a spouse, or gain a dependent. If an annuitant marries (remarries), coverage of spouse and/or children may be available and premium for dependents is at the retiree's expense.

#### **Premium Payment Responsibility – Annuitants**

The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall establish rates of premiums for the participants, based upon the premiums charged by the insurance carrier(s). Unless it has already been stated above under Eligibility, the Conference shall pay the premiums for all enrolled annuitants of the Conference, lay or ministerial, from appropriate funds, except that:

A. **A clergy person age 65 or older**, becoming an annuitant on or after July 1, 2002, who has less than 20 approved years with annuity credit in (CRSP), the Clergy Retirement Security Program (includes prior plans), with Wespath Benefits and Investments, shall, in order to receive health insurance coverage under the Plan, be responsible for the payment of a pro-rated share of his/her Plan premium. Such share shall be 5% times the number of full years by which such years are short of 20. Monthly premium for Part A if any, and for Part B (both required) is a personal expense.

B. **A lay person age 65 or older**, who has received or will receive a UMPIP benefit on or after July 1, 2002, who has less than 20 approved years with pension credit in UMPIP, the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (includes prior plan), of Wespath Benefits and Investments, shall, in order to receive health insurance coverage under the Plan, be responsible for the payment of a pro-rated share of his/her premium. Such share shall be 5% times the number of full years by which such years are short of 20. Monthly premium for Part A if any, and for Part B (both required) is a personal expense.

C. The Active premium for an **annuitant under the age of 65 commencing benefits**

1. **on or before July 1, 2003** shall be paid by the Conference subject to paragraphs A and B above until the annuitant reaches age 65.
2. **after July 1, 2003**, the Conference shall contribute an amount equal to the coverage cost of a Medicare-eligible annuitant, subject to paragraphs A and B above, and the annuitant shall be responsible for the remainder of the Active premium until the annuitant reaches age 65. Premium responsibility will be frozen at the calendar year 2014 level for annuitants retiring prior to July 1, 2014.
3. **on or after July 1, 2014**, the Conference shall contribute an amount equal to the coverage cost of a Medicare-eligible annuitant, subject to paragraphs A and B above, and the annuitant shall be responsible for an annual fixed amount determined in the year of retirement until the annuitant reaches age 65.

D. **Extension Clergy serving approved Conference Advance Specials** in the geographic bounds of the Annual Conference who are not eligible to enroll in the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) will be credited, solely for the years appointed to that Advance Special, with actual years of appointment and service to the Conference, for the purpose of calculation of service year credits to determine allocation of pro-rated premium payment responsibility upon retirement.

**Premium Payment Responsibility – Pre-Annuity Retirees**

The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall establish rates of premiums for the participants, based upon the premiums charged by the carrier. For those who have retired early and are not collecting an annuity, the retired enrollee is responsible for the full Active premium payment until they reach annuity age.

**Premium Payment Responsibility – Active**

The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall establish rates of premiums for the participants based upon the premiums charged by the carrier. Unless it has already been stated above under Eligibility, the Conference shall pay the premiums for all enrolled active participants, lay or ministerial, from appropriate funds, except that:

A. Each church shall pay the premium(s) or Waived Participation Fee(s) (which is equal to the blended premium) of each of its full-time appointed clergy (including clergy spouse and dependent children if enrolled) who are either a full, provisional, or associate member of the Conference or a local pastor.

1. The salary paying unit shall also be responsible for remitting premium for its lay employees who are enrolled in the Plan.
2. Plan participants are to pay 2% of their cash salary to their own salary paying unit as their share of the premium the employer (church) pays on their behalf.
3. In the case of clergy couples the following will apply:
  - a) Each spouse shall contribute 1% of their salary to every salary paying unit that is paying health premium, regardless of percentage of health premium paid

B. Each eligible enrollee, whose fees are not paid as provided above, shall pay his or her own premiums either directly or with employer participation. In every case, the individual enrollee is responsible for seeing that payment of his or her own premium is made if the party with PRIME responsibility fails to make the payment.

### **Continuation of Coverage After Certain Events**

**A. Voluntary and Involuntary Termination** - If a person's participation in the Plan ceases due to voluntary or involuntary termination of Conference membership or employment or discharge or removal from the Annual Conference, Continuation Coverage for health insurance may be available through application to HealthFlex.

**B. Loss of Dependent Status** - If a dependent's participation in the Plan ceases due to divorce or to attaining the limiting age, Continuation Coverage may be available through application to HealthFlex.

**C. Medical Leave** - See #2 under Eligibility.

**D. Leave of Absence** (§353 and §354) - Clergy placed on voluntary leave of absence (personal, family, or transitional) or involuntary leave of absence may continue in the Plan for a period of twelve months, provided they pay the premiums. Continuation Coverage for up to an additional 12 months may be available through application to HealthFlex. Leave of absence is not an appointment, causes a break in appointment years, and does not accrue annuity credit towards health benefits in retirement.

**E. Sabbatical Leave** (§351) Clergy placed on sabbatical leave may continue in the Plan for a period of twelve months, provided they pay the premiums. Continuation coverage may be available through application to HealthFlex. Sabbatical leave is not a break in appointment years for the purposes of health benefits in retirement.

**F. Death** - Surviving spouses of clergy members are subject to the same rules (see Eligibility Guidelines #1 and 3) as the clergy member. Surviving spouses of lay employees of the Conference and District offices are subject to the same rules (see Eligibility Guideline #4 c) as the lay employee.

### **Administration**

All concerns, issues, requests, etc., relating to premiums, benefits, coverage (including voluntary termination of coverage, additions or deletions to policies) and benefits at retirement must be "in writing" from the Plan participant to be considered official. Such correspondence, concerns, or requests

for changes in coverage must be sent to the Plan Administrator or his/her designated coordinator. Commitments or resolutions of issues must come in writing directly from the Plan Administrator or his/her designated coordinator. The Benefits Officer and Administrator for the Conference Plan is the Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services. The Benefits Officer shall be a member of the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits without a vote. He/she shall be responsible for promptly enrolling all eligible persons, for collecting all amounts due from churches, agencies or individuals for participation in the Plan, for arranging for their prompt deposit in a Conference account, for checking all billings from the Insurance Carrier to certify their completeness and accuracy and for making proper remittances on schedule for the Plan; and such Officer shall delete from the Plan any enrollee whose premium is not paid by the end of the month for which the premium is due. Termination is effective the first day of the month for which no payment has been received.

Submitted by:  
William Wilson, Chair, Board of Pensions

## Standards for Parsonages

Revised February 2018

**Be it resolved** that the following recommendation be adopted on the standards for parsonages for the GNJUMC effective, July 1, 2019.

### **Responsible Group in the Local Church**

The Book of Discipline does not mandate a parsonage committee however, it is strongly recommended that each local church Charge Conference form a parsonage committee. The committee will follow-up to assure timely resolution of parsonage problems affecting the health of the pastor or pastor's family. The chairperson of the committee on pastor-parish relations, the chairperson of the board of trustees, and the pastor shall make an annual review of the church-owned parsonage to assure proper maintenance. (§ 258.2 g (16) and ¶ 2532.4)

### **Standards for Parsonage (Existing Parsonages)**

All parsonages shall meet local requirements for a Certificate of Occupancy.

For existing parsonages, each local charge shall provide and maintain the following furnishings:

1. Living room and family room furniture.
2. Dining room furniture.
3. Kitchen, including stove, refrigerator with separate freezer compartment, exhaust fan, and dishwasher.
4. Laundry equipment – automatic washer and dryer.
5. Standard television connection (providing at least 30 channels), high speed internet service and one telephone line (cell or land line). Where possible consider bundling the services.
6. Floor coverings, solid surfaces are preferred.
7. Window shades and blinds, or curtains and drapes, functioning.
8. One fire extinguisher in kitchen and one extinguisher outside of the furnace room. There shall be at least one extinguisher per floor level. All fire extinguishers, smoke detectors and Carbon monoxide detectors are to be in compliance with local code requirements for rental properties or certificate of occupancy.
9. Closets or free-standing storage units in each bedroom.

10. Drives and walks should be hard surfaced.
11. Minimally acceptable outside lighting, for safety and to illuminate walkways and driveways.
12. Trash cans. In municipalities where garbage pickup is not part of the tax base and is billed to the parsonage, that local churches pay for this service.
13. Lawn care, snow removal equipment, and/or appropriate service shall be provided.
14. A study for the pastor in either the parsonage or church building. Office furnishing shall include a desk, desk chair, minimally acceptable shelving for the pastor's library, additional chairs, and a locking filing cabinet.
15. Furnishings for special rooms such as sun porch, den, etc., that may be different from one charge to another.
16. Parsonage electrical service shall conform to the current National Electrical Code.
17. Parking space for a minimum of one (1) car shall be provided.
18. Each charge shall decide if it will provide a security/alarm system.
19. The septic or sewer system shall be fully functional and meet the needs of the parsonage family.

### **Additional Suggestions**

1. Electrical service to be inspected every five (5) years by a licensed electrician.
2. Roof inspection every five (5) years.
3. Energy Audit every five (5) years.

### **Standards for Parsonages**

#### **(Purchasing or Building a New Parsonage)**

All parsonages shall meet local requirements for a Certificate of Occupancy.

All newly constructed or newly purchased parsonages shall be in full compliance with the dictates of the Book of Discipline. Consideration shall be made for those with handicapping conditions -

*Provide on the ground-floor of a newly constructed parsonage: (1) one room that can be used as a bedroom by a person with a disability; (2) a fully accessible bathroom; and (3) fully accessible laundry facilities (§ 2544.4d)*

### **Option One**

- a. The use of maintenance-free materials in building and in finishing and furnishing, these contribute to keeping maintenance costs lower.
- b. The following room requirements:
  - (a) Living Room/Family Room
  - (b) Dining Room
  - (c) Kitchen
  - (d) Study
  - (e) Baths (2)
  - (f) Bedrooms (3)
- c. A minimum electrical service of 200 amperes.
- d. A garage of a size to accommodate 2 cars, plus room for storage of lawn mowers, bicycles, tools, garden equipment, ladders, paint supplies, etc.
- e. Space to store large articles of furniture and equipment.
- f. The use of materials meeting the most energy efficient standards for insulation and windows.

- g. Careful consideration should be given in choosing the location of the parsonage. This consideration might include the distance from the church, accessibility from main streets of the community and the church, the neighborhood and its future, and the community itself and its future growth.

### **Option Two**

- a. The standards of Option One would apply with consideration by the church of purchasing, leasing, renting a townhouse or condominium. This option would be negotiated by the District Superintendent, the local charge and the pastor following consultation with the District Committee on Church Location and Building.
- b. The purpose of this option is to provide an alternative to the “traditional” church parsonage for ministry in special situations. Allowing for the wide variety of townhouse/condo choices, it is difficult to recommend a standard for such a setting.

### **Responsibility**

#### **Each pastor is responsible for:**

1. Furnishings for as many bedrooms as the family needs.
2. Personal items such as television, vacuum cleaner, small appliances, dishes, glassware, flatware, cleaning tools, wastebaskets, and decorative accessories.
3. Floor maintenance
4. Trash disposal and recycling
5. It is expected that the pastor shall provide tenant (renters) insurance, to cover property loss and personal liability.
6. Restitution for any damage beyond normal wear and tear.
7. Exiting pastor shall remove all personal items and furniture from the parsonage and property and leave in a “broom clean” state.

#### **Each charge shall provide:**

1. Utilities – heat, electricity, gas/oil, water, sewage, and basic non-personal telephone services.
2. Maintenance for all parsonage equipment.
3. Basic furniture for all rooms except the bedrooms.
4. Funds for the repair of the parsonage and its maintenance should be allocated and allowed to accumulate so that continuing care and major repairs can be made when needed.

#### **Multiple Charge Appointments and Clergy Couples**

1. In appointments where clergy is appointed to more than one church and a parsonage is provided by one of the churches the utility expenses (heat, water and electric) will be divided equally between the churches. Any capital improvements and maintenance on the parsonage are the responsibility of the church that owns the parsonage.
2. In cases of clergy couples (when the couple resides in the parsonage of one of the appointments), the utility expenses (heat, water and electric) for the parsonage will be divided equally between the appointments.

#### **Miscellaneous**

1. We recommend that, in addition to the required written reports filed annually with the Annual Church Conference paperwork, there be a complete video/photo inventory of all church-owned furnishings in the parsonage. The inventory and all videos and photos shall be maintained annually.

2. It should be the responsibility of the Parsonage Committee to become acquainted with the parsonage and, after a new pastoral appointment, meet with the parsonage family to discuss the minimum acceptability of housing and furnishings, and to meet annually thereafter with the parsonage family.
3. During the transition of pastoral appointment – the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee Chair, the exiting pastor, the new pastor and the Board of Trustee Chair will walk through the parsonage together for inspection and planning. It is recommended to utilize the Church Conference Parsonage inspection report for this walk through.
4. The right of the pastor to own furniture and equipment cannot be challenged. However, if s/he does own furniture and goods that s/he wishes to use in the parsonage, and parsonage furniture has to be stored, s/he should make every effort to store it properly so it is in good condition and does not suffer damage from being stored. The site or method of storage for any church owned furniture shall be determined by mutual agreement between the pastor and the Board of Trustees.–The pastor assumes financial responsibility for the storage of any unused furniture.
5. The parsonage is the pastor’s for his/her tenure in that church or charge. Therefore, s/he has the responsibility to care for the furniture to protect it from damage by pets or children and, if it is damaged, to return it to a condition equal to that when s/he received it to use. If an item of furniture is damaged beyond repair, s/he is obligated to replace it.
6. To respect the privacy of clergy and his/her family, the church has responsibility to make an appointment and secure the approval of the pastor or an adult member of the household, prior to visiting the parsonage at any time.

### **Appeals**

Appeals by the churches or pastors should be made to the District Superintendent as the final authority to interpret and implement the foregoing standards.

Submitted by:

Christine Day, Chair, Commission on Equitable Compensation

## **Closure of Johnsonburg United Methodist Church**

**Be it resolved** that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference expresses its thanksgiving for all the blessings made possible by the clergy and laity who have contributed to the mission and ministry of the Johnsonburg United Methodist Church in Johnsonburg, Frelinghuysen Township, New Jersey.

**Be it further resolved** that in keeping with the provision of ¶2549.4 of the Book of Discipline, 2016 edition, the congregation is discontinued and the assets of the church are transferred to the Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

**Be it further resolved** that in keeping with the provisions of ¶1229 of the Book of Discipline, 2016 edition, the remaining members of the church may be transferred to a United Methodist Church of their choice.

**Be it further resolved** that the Trustees of the Great New Jersey Annual Conference shall be directed to distribute net proceeds from the disposition of the assets as follows:

- (a) All outstanding loans and other obligations owed to the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference shall be repaid upon the sale of the property, and liquidation of any other asset, and
- (b) Upon receipt, the remainder shall be directed to the Strategic Disciple Making Fund

**Be it further resolved** that in keeping with the provisions of ¶2549.4 of the Book of Discipline, 2016 edition, all deeds, records, legal papers and other official documents shall be maintained in permanent safekeeping with the Conference Commission of Archives and History.

Church voted to discontinue as of September 2, 2017

Submitted by:

Steven Bechtold, Superintendent, Skylands District

## Kingwood United Methodist Church, Hunterdon County, Historic Site

**Whereas** Rev. George Whitefield, then informally aligned with the Methodist movement, preached in the area in May of 1740.

**Whereas** Methodism in Hunterdon County began as early as 1774, through the efforts of an appointed circuit rider, who was “to preach wherever he could get a hearing, “who convened and preached the first meeting at Kingwood; which was a location where he did get a hearing.

**Whereas** Bishop Francis Asbury preached in a field, owned by Thomas West, beside a great rock in Kingwood April 25, 1776 and that rock came to be called Pulpit Rock.

**Whereas** that field with Pulpit Rock was the location for countless outdoor preaching services and Quarterly Conferences and was where many persons made their decision for Christ. This field with Pulpit Rock was eventually deeded by Lillian Lehman to the Kingwood Methodist Church July 2, 1963. Through the decades the church served as caretaker for this site, continuing to offer services to those seeking spiritual inspiration and renewal.

**Whereas** early Methodists in the area grew in the faith through class meetings for years before forming a Methodist Episcopal organization in 1811; later building a meeting house in 1816 on a parcel of land deeded to the church by Thomas West.

**Whereas** those early Methodists included Thomas and Rachel West, Joseph Snyder, Joseph Hart, Darius Everett, Christopher Snyder, Abraham Slaughter and William Search, among others.

**Whereas** Kingwood Methodist Episcopal Church, being located on a major highway which connected New York and Philadelphia, became a point of refuge, meetings and Quarterly Conferences for early Methodists. Many services were convened by early Methodist leaders, including Bishop Asbury and local

New Jersey powerhouse, the Rev. Manning Force, the first appointed preacher.

**Whereas** the home of Thomas and Rachel West became a hostel of hospitality to traveling Methodists known as the Woolverton House, and hundreds of Methodists, preachers and laity alike, enjoyed welcome respite, especially for Quarterly Conferences. In its day the Woolverton House was referred to as the “Home of Preachers”.

**Whereas** the fortunes of Kingwood Church ebbed and flowed over its more than two hundred years of Christian worship services and ministry, its contribution to the cause of Christ never waned.

**Whereas** Rev. Daniel Halleran, Presiding Elder at the 1908 Newark Annual Conference, recognized its contribution by proclaiming, “Old Kingwood fifty years ago raised spiritual giants; multitudes were born at her altars”(Newark Conference Journal, 1908, p. 48).

**Be It resolved** that Kingwood United Methodist Church be recognized for its significant service to the cause of Christ within the bounds of the Greater New Jersey Conference of the United Methodist Church and its predecessors by honoring it as an Annual Conference Historic Site.

**Rationale:** The forefathers and foremothers who became Kingwood United Methodist Church sought to bring scriptural holiness to this rural section of New Jersey. Kingwood United Methodist Church has steadily and faithfully served the cause of Christ and Methodism since the middle of the eighteenth century. Kingwood United Methodist Church is the caretaker of one of the identified sites of Bishop Francis Asbury’s preaching and ministry. Loyal to the Methodist cause their ministry continues to inspire our heartfelt gratitude and deserves this recognition as a Conference Historic Site.

Submitted by:  
John Callahan, Chair, Archives and History

## Clarksboro: Evangelical United Methodist Church, Gloucester County, Historic Site

**Whereas** 2018 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the merger of the former Evangelical United Brethren Church with the Methodist Church to form the United Methodist Church, it is most fitting to recognize the contribution in ministry to Christ and The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey by Clarksboro: Evangelical United Methodist Church (formerly Clarksboro: Zion), which was one among more than two dozen mission starts by the Evangelical Association.

**Whereas** The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference of the Evangelical Association (EA) in 1859 voted to plant missions in Southern New Jersey, the work began in the Camden-Glassboro area and then branched out through the region.

**Whereas** numerous EA preaching sites developed over the years but many of these sites failed to prosper and by 1915, Clarksboro: Zion had absorbed the remaining membership of these missions.

**Whereas** after Rev. Charles Philipbar officiated at a German funeral in Richwood, John Nolte invited Rev. Philipbar to preach in his home in East Greenwich Township. The first service was held in Berkley First Baptist Church on March 1879. The result was that in 1879 a small band of German Christians began to worship together. They later moved nearer closer to home in Clarksboro.

**Whereas** this small band incorporated on March 24, 1880, named their mission Zion and purchased land to build a small chapel, which was dedicated in September. Bishop Thomas Bowman preached the dedication sermon.

**Whereas** in 1882, Rev. A. R. Yeakel was appointed to the mission and become the first pastor to live in the new parsonage, wherein he and his successors supplied pastoral ministry among other near-by missions until 1915, when all the area missions were consolidated at Clarksboro.

**Whereas** Clarksboro grew, developing new ministry groups, such as Young People's Alliance and Women's Missionary Society and the Spirit moved, two young men to pursue a call to ordained ministry. The Rev. Charles Urban was ordained in 1921. Alfred Schober also explored the process but did not seek ordination, serving instead as a layperson, even as conference lay leader.

**Whereas** one of Clarksboro's principal contributions to the greater church was Ulysses Estilow, Jr. Brother Estilow served throughout the church as a supply preacher, member of Annual Conference and delegate to Evangelical Church General Conference. He also attended the 1968 merging conference of the Evangelical United Brethren and Methodist Churches and served as a United Methodist delegate to the World Council of Churches. In 1972 Brother Estilow was the first former Evangelical United Brethren delegate elected as an alternate delegate to the General Conference of the United Methodist Church. He also served as a delegate to the Northeast Jurisdiction from the New Jersey Conference.

**Whereas** Rev. E. Egger, P. E. commended Clarksboro: Zion "as the only rural Evangelical church in the state" (Conference Journal, pg. 17).

**Whereas** Clarksboro: Zion was sorely challenged on April 2, 1944 by a fire which destroyed the church an hour after Palm Sunday church service concluded. The church rallied, prayed, received financial help from many sources, rebuilt and dedicated the current church June 9, 1945—practically debt-free.

**Whereas** Clarksboro: Zion was challenged with the 1968 merger of the Evangelical United Brethren Church with the Methodist Church to change its name to Clarksboro: Evangelical, in order to reduce the number of Zion United Methodist Churches in Clarksboro, Clarksboro: Evangelical emerged as a tribute to mission and its heritage.

**Be it therefore resolved** that Clarksboro: Evangelical United Methodist Church is recognized for its significant services to the cause of Christ within the bounds of the Greater New Jersey Conference of the

United Methodist Church and its predecessors in the Evangelical Association, the Evangelical United Brethren and the United Methodist Churches by honoring it as an Annual Conference Historic Site.

**Rationale:** If it were not for the ministry of memory, the deeds and efforts of our forefathers and foremothers would be forgotten. The seeds of Clarksboro: Evangelical (formerly Zion) began at a funeral in 1879 when John Nolte invited Rev. Charles Philipbar to come and preach at the Clarksboro. Incorporated in 1880, Clarksboro has been in ministry for 138 years. One member, Charles Urban, was ordained in 1821. At least two lay persons served the Atlantic Conference as a lay leader. One, Ulysses Estilow, would also serve as a delegate to General Conference of the Evangelical Church, a delegate to the 1968 uniting conference of the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren Church, a United Methodist delegate to the World Council of Churches and was the first former Evangelical United Brethren delegate elected as an alternate to 1952 General Conference and delegate to the Northeast Jurisdiction as a member of the New Jersey Conference. Where most of the Evangelical Churches were in urban areas, Evangelical was recognized by Rev. E. Egger, Presiding Elder, as the only rural church in New Jersey (Atlantic Conference Journal, 1924, pg. 11). Evangelical Church was not without its challenges, the greatest when the church burned to the ground Palm Sunday afternoon, April 2, 1944. With faithful prayer and generous donations a new sanctuary was dedicated in 1945 practically debt free. Indebted to the faithful ministry and contribution to many merged annual conferences, including the Greater New Jersey Conference, the Commission on Archives and History proudly recognizes its ministry and recommends Clarksboro: Evangelical United Methodist Church as Historic Site at this Annual Conference session.

Submitted by:  
John Callahan, Chair, Archives and History

Union City: Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Hudson County, Historic Site

**Whereas** 2018 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the merger of the former Evangelical United Brethren Church with The Methodist Church to form The United Methodist Church, it is most fitting to recognize the contribution in ministry to Christ and The Greater New Jersey Conference by Union City: Emmanuel United Methodist Church among more than two dozen mission starts by the Evangelical Association.

**Whereas** the East Pennsylvania Conference of the Evangelical Association saw urban areas as mission fields and voted in 1859 to evangelize German-speaking neighborhoods in the State of New Jersey.

**Whereas** this ministry was consecrated in 1863, when pastors and parishioners of First Evangelical Association Church of Manhattan and First Evangelical Association Church of Newark were commissioned to preach in the region known as Union Hill (now Union City).

**Whereas** the preaching and ministry of Rev. J. Specht, among others, bore fruit with the formation of a small group of Christians, who in turn brought others under the ministry of this mission.

**Whereas** his small band did grow and by 1865 the mission became incorporated and built a small meeting house in its first location and received Rev. J. Goetschel as their first appointed pastor.

**Whereas** this small church continued to grow, named itself Emanuel and purchased property on which to build a larger church on its current location at 3301 New York Avenue by 1890.

**Whereas** one of its members accepted a call to ministry; the Rev. O. H. Pantan was ordained in 1891 and served Evangelical Association churches faithfully for thirty-six years.

**Whereas** Emanuel served the Evangelical Association by spearheading four missions in neighboring towns; the new church starts were Jersey City: Salem (1866), West New York (1876), Jersey City Heights: Zion (1886) and North Bergen Trinity (1926).

**Whereas** the church sought to effectively engage its changing community and modeled inclusiveness when it began a Hispanic outreach ministry in the 1950s.

**Whereas** the Atlantic Conference Annual Session met in local churches and Emanuel was privileged to host the 1901, 1918, and 1940 conference sessions.

**Whereas** Union City: Emanuel is the longest serving church from the Evangelical side of the Evangelical United Brethren Church in New Jersey.

**Be it resolved** that Union City: Emanuel United Methodist Church is recognized for its significant services to the cause of Christ within the bounds of the Greater New Jersey Conference of the United Methodist Church and its predecessors in the Evangelical Association, the Evangelical United Brethren and the United Methodist Churches by honoring it as an Annual Conference Historic Site.

**Rationale:** If it were not for the ministry of memory, the deeds and efforts of our forefathers and foremothers would be forgotten. Emanuel United Methodist Church was established in 1863 as a mission of the East Pennsylvania Conference of the Evangelical Association in Union Hill. For one hundred fifty-five years this church has served Christ and the Church. The criteria for an Annual Conference Historic Site are more than just years. They include service and events that contributed to the Annual Conference (The Book of Discipline, Para 1712. 1.a). The former Emanuel Evangelical Church hosted the 1901, 1918, and 1940 sessions of the Atlantic Annual Conference. As a missionary arm of the Atlantic Conference Union City: Emanuel was instrumental in starting four new missions—Jersey City: Salem, 1866, West New York, 1876, Jersey City Heights: Zion, 1886, and North Bergen Trinity, 1926. Three of the four churches entered the former Northern New Jersey Conference in 1968. Rev. Eugene Fuessle, Presiding Elder, reported to Annual Conference in 1927 that the mission opened last spring in North Bergen: “gives this congregation a new impulse in local evangelism—29 new members and six conversions” (pg. 27). In addition one its members answered a call to ministry. Rev. O. H. Pantan was ordained in 1891. With many more accomplishments, including a local Hispanic/Latino Ministry, the Commission on Archives and History celebrates the ministry of Union City: Emanuel United Methodist Church recommending it as an Annual Conference Historic Site.

Submitted by:  
John Callahan, Chair, Archives and History

## Recommended Changes to Rule 19 after consideration by the Rules Committee Upon Referral of Legislation in 2017

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE:

Legislation referred by the 2017 Annual Conference: In 2017, Creed Pogue submitted legislation to change the provisions of Rule 19 of the Conference Rules. That 2017 legislation recommended adding at the end of Rule 19(b) ii the following sentence: "All proposed legislation that has been received by the deadline shall be considered in a plenary session of that year's Annual Conference."

The Committee supports the goal of leaving enough time for legislation properly before the Conference. The wording of the 2017 legislation, however, did not account for the existing provisions of Rule 19(b) ii, with respect to "urgent and appropriate" late submissions. The legislation also did not propose a practical method for adjusting the agenda, based on timing issues developing during the course of the Annual Conference meetings. The 2017 legislation did not clearly account for the possibility that the Conference might not consider legislation for a reason other than lateness of submission. (For example, the Conference might choose to table a resolution rather than considering it in a plenary session). Moreover, the 2017 legislation raised concerns regarding possible additional costs and logistical issues arising from extending the final day of the Conference sessions beyond the contracted time. The proposed legislation was referred to the Rules Committee and to the Church Finance and Administration Board for further review.

Because of the concerns noted above, the Rules Committee proposes a new amendment to Rule 19, as a substitute in full for the 2017 proposed legislation referred to us. That proposed legislation is set forth at the end of this Report.

Submitted by:  
Daniel W. Gepford, Chair, Rules of Order Committee

### Amend Rule 19(b)

**Whereas**, GNJ had been in the more restrictive half of annual conferences in the NEJ for petition submission deadlines, and

**Whereas**, the date has been changed in 2018 to move GNJ to the most restrictive third, and

**Whereas**, no rationale for that change has been communicated, and

**Whereas**, there will be a Special General Conference in 2019 that will end on February 26, 2019 so if this year's deadline is retained then nothing can be submitted in response, and

**Whereas**, other annual conferences provide for much later deadlines as well as some provide for a way to submit proposals after their initial deadline without requiring a pre-approval, and

**Whereas**, General Conference 2016 changed their rules to require that all proposals receive the courtesy of consideration, and

**Whereas**, a proposal to accomplish that for GNJ was referred but nothing has been communicated since then

**Be it resolved**, That Rule 19 (b) be amended to read as follows:

*The Pre-Conference Workbook shall contain all proposed legislation and all reports of agencies, boards, commissions, committees, councils or teams that shall have been received by the Annual Conference offices no later than sixty days before the first day of Annual Conference. All proposed legislation that meets this deadline shall receive floor consideration at Annual Conference.*

*Any proposed legislation that is received after that deadline but is received no later than thirty days before the first day of Annual Conference shall be printed in a supplemental booklet. Submissions cannot be more than 300 words total. There is no promise, implied or explicit, that this legislation would receive floor consideration at Annual Conference.*

**Rationale:** The 2016 General Conference amended its rules to guarantee that any submission would receive the respect of floor consideration. It had been the tradition and practice of GNJ that all legislation would receive floor consideration until 2016. This proposal codifies our long-standing practice and tradition. It also provides certainty for submission deadlines. The body also always has the option of tabling or referring proposals in the interest of time, but that should be a decision made by Annual Conference openly. In the past, supplemental booklets have been presented at Annual Conference, so this would not create a new expense.

Submitted by:  
Creed Pogue

REPORT FROM RULES OF ORDER COMMITTEE on new legislation submitted to amend Rule 19 (b): On February 13, 2018, Creed Pogue submitted a new amendment to Rule 19 (b). His new amendment would substantially repeat the terms of the 2017 legislation, with regard to consideration of timely submitted legislation, except that it uses the phrase “shall receive floor consideration,” instead of the phrase “shall be considered at a plenary session...” It is not clear what the intended difference is, but we believe the language raises the same concerns as noted above. The new legislation also establishes two fixed deadlines for submitting proposed reports and legislation. We have not had sufficient time to investigate the permanent adequacy of the proposed deadlines of sixty days and thirty days before the scheduled Annual Conference, and do not see any reason why (given reasonable adequate notice and the opportunity to amend) any deadline set by the Secretary could not be met (even where there is a special General Conference in the same timeframe).

**Therefore**, while we would like to review the proposed legislation for a longer period of time, we move adoption of the Rules Committee proposal as a substitute in full for this new proposed legislation as well.

Submitted by:  
Daniel W. Gepford, Chair, Rules of Order Committee

Amend Rule 19 to address Legislation Proposed to Annual Conference

**The Rules of Order Committee recommends that** the Conference Rules be changed as indicated below. These changes shall be substituted for the proposed legislation referred to the Committee by the 2017 Conference and for other proposed legislation on Rule 19 before the Conference in 2018.

**AMENDMENT TO RULE 19:** Rule 19, Section b, of the Conference Rules shall be modified to read as follows (with changed portions highlighted):

“Rule 19b. Recommendations -

“i. The Pre-Conference Workbook shall contain all proposed legislation and all reports of agencies, boards, commissions, committees, councils or teams that have been received by the Annual Conference offices by the first business day in March (or such other deadline as the Conference Secretary may establish).

“ii. All proposed legislation and reports received after March 1 **(or such other deadline as the Conference Secretary may establish)** shall be submitted to the agenda committee for review. Upon the agenda committee's recommendation and the bishop's consent, such items may be included in the agenda where urgent and appropriate.

**“iii. The agenda for the Annual Conference shall contain all proposed legislation and reports calling for Annual Conference action that have been timely received pursuant to paragraph 19bi above. The agenda shall also contain all items approved for inclusion in the agenda pursuant to paragraph 19bii above. The agenda shall be designed with best efforts to allocate sufficient consideration by the Conference of all properly proposed legislation received by the submission deadline or otherwise included in the agenda pursuant to Rule 19(b)i and ii. During the second day of that year's Annual Conference, the agenda committee shall review the progress of the Conference in addressing the matters before it in the agenda. When it appears necessary and appropriate to schedule additional time for the Conference to address all legislation before the Conference, the agenda committee shall propose to the Conference a motion to adjust, extend or add to the second day's sessions, so as to facilitate the Conference's consideration of such legislation. Such a motion shall require no second, and shall be privileged over all other pending motions.”**

Submitted by:

Daniel W. Gepford, Chair, Rules of Order Committee

## Amend Rules 64 and 65

**Whereas**, about thirty percent of the clergy and laity were disenfranchised in 2015 because of difficulties with electronic voting; and

**Whereas**, this represents a sub-optimal outcome especially considering the cost; and

**Whereas**, paper ballots represent a verifiable vote regardless of any technical difficulties; and

**Whereas**, we have limited time at Annual Conference; and

**Whereas**, a modified ranked choice voting procedure would allow everyone's vote to be counted, remove "strategy" on multiple ballots and be respectful of the stewardship of time and money;

**Be it resolved**, That Rule 64 (b) be amended to add:

*Ranked choice voting modified as necessary to meet the Conference's needs may be utilized. In that event, Rule 65 shall be considered modified to effectuate the final procedure.*

**Rationale:** Ranked choice voting allows for multiple candidates to be elected on one ballot. Each voter can rank as many candidates as they wish while understanding that failure to rank at least enough to fill all the available positions will result in a loss of input on the other positions. Whenever there is not a candidate who receives a majority, then the candidate in last place shall be eliminated and their second-choice preferences considered. This shall continue until a candidate is elected. Then, the ballots for that candidate shall be redistributed to their next preferences. This process shall continue until the necessary number of candidates for either General or Jurisdictional Conferences shall be elected. We can elect on one ballot for General at the Clergy/Laity sessions and then elect Jurisdictional (including alternates) on Monday without needing to have a ballot early in the morning where we also lost participation. It is the sponsor's hope that opportunities will be given at the 2018 Annual Conference (perhaps at a meal) for members to practice.

Submitted by:  
Creed Pogue

REPORT FROM RULES OF ORDER COMMITTEE on new legislation submitted to Amend Rules 64 and 65: On February 13, 2018, Creed Pogue-proposed legislation introducing amendments to Rules 64 and 65. This proposed legislation would replace the current method of voting for delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences with a new "rank order" voting system, involving a single paper ballot and multiple re-allocations of votes. While this legislation is also new, it repeats a proposal from several years ago. While we have had limited time to examine this proposed method in the context of election of multiple delegates for different positions (as opposed to a single person), we are concerned that the proposed voting method will be very difficult for new voters to understand. Because the method would involve multiple re-allocations of the same paper ballots, we also believe that counting ballots under the proposed method would be very time-consuming and error-prone. The method also does not permit a voter to adjust his or her preferences considering the direction the balloting develops, over several ballots.

**Therefore**, we do not recommend passage of the proposed legislation.

Submitted by:  
Daniel W. Gepford, Chair, Rules of Order Committee

## Missional Partnership between The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico and The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

### **The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico (MCPR)**

The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico is comprised of 100 congregations in the main island, Vieques, Culebra, and St. Croix USVI. The Methodist movement has been in Puerto Rico for more than 100 years. The MCPR have strong ties with the United Methodist Church. Their mission is to "Make Disciples for Jesus Christ with the purpose of collaborating with God in the transformation of Creation." The MCPR is

committed to be a vibrant church present in the community working with vulnerable populations such as children, elderly, impoverished communities, and single moms.

### **The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey (GNJ)**

The United Methodist Church of Greater Jersey is a national leader in mission and ministry. Comprised of over 500 congregations, this network of 45,000 disciples transforms communities through meaningful and life-changing mission. Any given day, one may find United Methodists in mission through food distribution, affordable childcare, after-school programming, homeless housing, English as a Second language classes, immigration reform, refugee settlement, racial justice, job development, elder care, community development and various other social services.

### **Growing a Missional Partnership**

GNJ and MCPR celebrate their unique histories and ministries, common Wesleyan heritage and calling to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. GNJ is blessed with lay and clergy leadership from Puerto Rico and thousands of disciples that claim the island as their homeland.

The missional impact of GNJ and MCPR goes beyond distance, language, culture. Therefore, GNJ and MCPR will partner to engage in:

1. *Cross Cultural Immersion Experiences* – foster youth, young adults, laity and clergy leadership exchanges so that we develop a deeper understanding of and appreciation for one another’s uniqueness, culture, history, spirituality and ministry in making disciples and transforming communities.
2. *Joint Educational Experiences* - co-sponsor joint educational experiences for laity and clergy so that we leverage best practices for growing and strengthen passionate disciples and vital congregations in a multicultural ministry field.
3. *Appointing Puerto Rican Pastors* –GNJ will work with the MCPR to provide appointment opportunities to Puerto Rican pastors without congregations because of Hurricanes Irma and Maria so that they can lead in GNJ congregations with their gifts and experiences.
4. *Local Churches Companionship* –opportunities for MCPR & GNJ local churches to establish church to church companionship relationships so that meaningful relationships based on mutuality are cultivated and joined mission opportunities are developed.
5. *Mission Volunteer Exchanges* - deploy disciples to mission experiences in Puerto Rico and Greater New Jersey so that people and communities experience healing and wholeness from God.
6. *Financial support for the recovery of Puerto Rico*: GNJ will raise funds through its *Miracles Everywhere Mission Campaign* over the next 3 years to support the recovery, rebuild and renewal of communities impacted by hurricanes Irma and Maria in the island, in coordination with UMCOR and the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico.

May 21, 2018

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**Bishop Hector F. Ortiz**

Methodist Church of Puerto Rico



Iglesia Metodista de Puerto Rico

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**Bishop John Schol**

United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey



## Alianza Misional entre La Iglesia Metodista de Puerto Rico y la Iglesia Metodista Unida de Greater New Jersey

### **La Iglesia Metodista de Puerto Rico (IMPR)**

La Iglesia Metodista de Puerto Rico está compuesta de 100 congregaciones en la isla principal, Vieques, Culebra y St. Croix USVI. El movimiento metodista ha estado en Puerto Rico por más de 100 años. La IMPR tiene fuertes lazos con la Iglesia Metodista Unida. Su misión es "Hacer discípulos de Jesucristo con el propósito de colaborar con Dios en la transformación de la Creación". La IMPR está comprometida en ser una iglesia vibrante presente en la comunidad trabajando con poblaciones vulnerables como niños, ancianos, comunidades empobrecidas, y madres solteras.

### **La Iglesia Metodista Unida de Greater New Jersey (GNJ)**

La Iglesia Metodista Unida de Greater New Jersey es reconocida como un líder nacional en misión y ministerio. Compuesta por más de 500 congregaciones, su red de 45,000 discípulos transforma comunidades a través de una misión significativa y transformadora. Cualquier día, se pueden encontrar a Metodistas Unidos de GNJ en misión a través de ministerios de distribución de alimentos, cuidado infantil accesible, programación escolar extracurricular, vivienda para desamparados, clases de inglés como segundo idioma, apoyo a inmigrantes, asentamiento de refugiados, justicia racial, desarrollo laboral, cuidado de ancianos, desarrollo comunitario y otros servicios sociales.

### **Desarrollo de una Alianza Misional**

GNJ y IMPR celebran sus historias y ministerios particulares, la herencia Wesleyana que les une y el llamado a hacer discípulos de Jesucristo para la transformación del mundo. GNJ es bendecida con líderes laicos y clérigos procedentes de Puerto Rico y miles de discípulos que afirman que la isla es su patria.

El impacto misional de GNJ y IMPR va más allá de la distancia, el idioma y la cultura. Por lo tanto, GNJ y IMPR trabajarán juntas a través de:

1. *Experiencias de inmersión cultural:* intercambios de jóvenes, jóvenes adultos, laicos y liderazgo de clérigos para desarrollar una comprensión y apreciación más profunda de la singularidad, cultura, historia, espiritualidad y ministerio de cada una para hacer discípulos y transformar comunidades.
2. Experiencias educativas conjuntas: copatrocinar experiencias educativas conjuntas para laicos y clérigos para compartir prácticas y aprendizajes sobre cómo desarrollar y fortalecer discípulos apasionados y congregaciones vitales en un campo de ministerio multicultural.
3. Nombramiento de pastores puertorriqueños: GNJ trabajará con la IMPR para proporcionar oportunidades de nombramiento a pastores puertorriqueños sin congregaciones debido a los huracanes Irma y María para que puedan proveer liderazgo pastoral en congregaciones de GNJ a través de sus dones y experiencias.
4. Compañerismo de iglesias locales: oportunidades para que las iglesias locales de la IMPR y GNJ establezcan relaciones de compañerismo que desarrollen relaciones significativas basadas en mutualidad y oportunidades de misión.

5. Intercambios de voluntarios en misión: enviar discípulos a experiencias misioneras en Puerto Rico y GNJ para que personas y comunidades experimenten sanidad y la plenitud de Dios.
6. Apoyo financiero para la recuperación de Puerto Rico: GNJ recaudará fondos a través de su Campaña Misionera “*Miracles Everywhere*” durante los próximos 3 años para apoyar la recuperación, reconstrucción y renovación de las comunidades afectadas por los huracanes Irma y María en la isla, en coordinación con UMCOR y la Iglesia Metodista de Puerto Rico.

21 de mayo de 2018

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**Bishop Hector F. Ortiz**  
Methodist Church of Puerto Rico

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**Iglesia Metodista de Puerto Rico**

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**Bishop John Schol**  
United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey



## Missional Partnership between The United Methodist Church of Tanzania and The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

### **The North Katanga Episcopal Area of the United Methodist Church (NKUMC)**

The North Katanga Episcopal area of the United Methodist Church is comprised of three Annual Conferences: North Katanga, Tanganyika and Tanzania Conferences. The United Methodist mission in Tanzania began 25 years ago with the deployment of six United Methodist missionaries. Through their work and the support of local congregations in GNJ and elsewhere, there are now 68 emerging United Methodist congregations in Tanzania that are growing, both in numbers and impact, in the community.

### **The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey (GNJ)**

The United Methodist Church of Greater Jersey is a national leader in mission and ministry. Comprised of over 500 congregations, this network of 45,000 disciples transforms communities through meaningful and life-changing mission. Any given day, one may find United Methodists in mission through food distribution, affordable childcare, after-school programming, homeless housing, English as a Second language classes, immigration reform, refugee settlement, racial justice, job development, elder care, community development and various other social services.

### **Growing our Missional Partnership**

GNJ and NKUMC celebrate their unique histories and ministries, common Wesleyan heritage and calling to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and their work together over the past ten years through the Wings of the Morning project and missionary support.

The missional impact of GNJ and NKUMC goes beyond distance, language, culture. Therefore, GNJ and NKUMC will grow their partnership to engage in mutual learning, leadership development and congregational development that includes:

- 1) A joint pastors' school in Tanzania each year to grow the skills of pastors.
- 2) Support up to 10 pastors' salaries each year.
- 3) Start a new congregation or build a new church building each year.
- 4) Support Mission/Hope Center in Dar es Salaam that will start a health clinic to provide life-saving and preventive care to the community, a primary and secondary schools for orphans, and host missions teams from around the world; and

May 21, 2018

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#### **Bishop Mande Muyombo**

The United Methodist Church  
North Katanga Episcopal Area  
Tanzania Mission Conference

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#### **Bishop John Schol**

The United Methodist Church  
of Greater New Jersey

## Miracles Everywhere Campaign

**Be it resolved** that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference establish A Miracles Everywhere Campaign to be provided through three-year pledges from local churches, their members and their communities and

**Be it therefore further resolved** that the goal of this fund is \$5,197,000 and

**Be it further resolved** that this goal be composed of \$3,197,000 to cultivate the Next Generation of disciples of Jesus Christ, \$1,000,000 to extend A Future With Hope, for local miracles, \$500,000 for hurricane relief for regional ministries, and \$500,000 for a Hope Center in Tanzania for global miracles.

**Be it therefore further resolved** that if approved at Annual Conference, prayerful consideration and care will be undertaken to achieve the goal, empowering Miracles Everywhere!

Submitted by:  
Robert Dietz, Chair, CF&A

# Miracles Everywhere Campaign Case Statement

*With unbounded hope in God, extending the reach of GNJ ministry locally, regionally and globally*

God works miracles through the ministry of United Methodists of Greater New Jersey. God shaped A Future With Hope and helped GNJ United Methodists rebuild 271 homes – a living miracle for the people who were devastated by Superstorm Sandy. Eighty thousand women and children in Africa experienced a miraculous God because United Methodists in Greater New Jersey supported Imagine No Malaria which provided them treatment and prevention tools, saving their lives. - *Miracles are everywhere!*

United Methodists in Greater New Jersey raised nearly \$7 million in the last mission campaign. God is ready to work more miracles through our ministry.

## **A Trinity of Miracles**

God is working through United Methodists of Greater New Jersey to bear hope and healing throughout in our neighborhoods and around the world. Jesus told his followers, *be my witnesses in Jerusalem (their own community), in all Judea and Samaria (the region), and to the ends of the earth (globally)*. Acts 1:8

Jesus recognized the mission of *making disciples* and *transforming the world* is local, regional and global. God is calling all GNJ disciples to be witnesses to our neighbors in our communities, throughout our region and around the world.

## **1. Local Miracles:**

### **Cultivate the next generation of disciples**

*Give young people a start and even when they are old they will not turn from it.* Proverbs 22:6

A bold new strategic direction, Next Generation Ministries, has emerged to lay the foundation of discipleship with a new generation of young and diverse disciples of Jesus Christ through the ministries of our congregations, the inspiration of IGNITE Youth Conference, the revitalization of our camps and the introduction of United Methodists on college campuses. We see a new generation of enthusiastic disciples as we:

- Start or grow 250 congregations' youth ministries to include an additional 2000 youth
- Start 10 college campus ministries that will grow the faith of 1000 college students
- Grow the IGNITE Youth Conference to more than 5000 students
- Re-start our camping ministry with an IGNITE type experiences that will serve 1000 students

Campaign goal	\$3,197,000
Raised or in hand	<u>1,802,000</u>
To be raised	\$1,395,000

## **Extend A Future With Hope**

*Work from the well-being of the community where I sent you. Pray to the Lord for when it thrives, you will thrive.* Jeremiah 29:7

A Future With Hope developed a robust state-wide relief and rebuild ministry in response to Superstorm Sandy. God is calling us to apply this experience and capacity to respond in new ways. We will build 100 Hope Centers in our communities increasing social services and building hundreds of affordable housing units across in our communities. Hope Centers will move disciples from the pews to the pavement as we grow youth development ministries and address basic human needs. One hundred Hope Centers in and through our congregations will increase our witness with five Hope Centers in every county.

Campaign goal	\$1,000,000
Raised or in hand	<u>100,000</u>
To be raised	\$900,000

## 2. Regional Miracles

### Assist in Hurricane Recovery

*For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans to your welfare and not for harm.* Jeremiah 29:11

The people in Greater New Jersey know how devastating a disaster can be. In 2017, hurricanes devastated communities in Texas, Florida, Cuba, the Caribbean, and Puerto Rico five years after Superstorm Sandy impacted tens of thousands of our neighbors in GNJ. We can assist others in their recovery, as so many assisted us. Working through UMCOR, we will raise funds for and send mission teams to these disaster stricken communities. Because of our significant ties to Puerto Rico and the extreme devastation of their island, 50% of what we raise will go toward Puerto Rico's recovery

Campaign goal	\$500,000
Raised or in hand	<u>250,000</u>
To be raised	\$250,000

## 3. Global Miracles

### A Hope Center in Tanzania

*And wherever he went-into villages, towns or countryside-they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.* Mark 6: 55-56

The missional impact of The United Methodist Church goes beyond national borders. We will grow our partnership with our Wings of the Morning partner, the North Katanga Conference, by building a Hope Center in Tanzania. This Hope Center will:

- Start a health clinic to provide life-saving and preventive care to the community
- Start primary and secondary schools for orphans
- Raise up and deploy young adult missionaries from GNJ for formational and immersive mission experiences in Tanzania

- Host mission teams from around the world to collaborate with the mission of The United Methodist mission in Tanzania.

Campaign goal	\$500,000
Funds raised or in hand	<u>0</u>
To be raised	\$500,000

Working together and with God’s help, miracles are within reach everywhere

<i>Miracles Everywhere</i> Campaign	\$5,197,000
Funds raised or in hand	<u>2,152,000</u>
Total to be raised	<b>\$3,045,000</b>

### **Why a mission fund campaign now?**

- God is calling us to raise up young and diverse disciples of Jesus Christ
- People and communities are hurting from disasters and life-threatening poverty
- God calls us to minister to our neighbors who live here in our conference and who live in our global neighborhood.

### **Why is this campaign important?**

This campaign will change lives and congregations because it will:

1. Focus on raising the spiritual and discipleship climate
2. Equip and resource leaders and congregations in faith sharing, mission & outreach engagement in the community and stewardship
3. Grow the number of vital congregations
4. Raise the funds to further our witness in our communities, the regional and around the world.

### **How will GNJ resource leaders and congregations for a successful campaign?**

Resources will be developed and available to all leaders and congregations to:

- Learn and share the gospel imperatives for mission engagement and generous giving
- Interpret, promote and engage the Mission Campaign in their churches
- Celebrate the progress made to inspire further participation
- Consult with and support individual church campaigns

### **How will these miracles happen?**

- Prayer will be the foundation of the campaign.
- 549 Churches giving - \$3,045,000 million dollars towards the Miracles Everywhere campaign.
- Congregations give what they can. Sample Giving Ladder:
  - 20 churches giving \$10,000 a year for 3 years = \$600,000
  - 40 churches giving \$5,000 a year for 3 years = \$600,000
  - 89 churches giving \$2,500 a year for 3 years = \$667,500
  - 125 churches giving \$1,500 a year for 3 years = \$ 562,500
  - 125 churches giving \$1,000 a year for 3 years = \$ 375,000
  - 160 churches giving \$500 a year for 3 years = \$ 240,000
  - Total 559 churches giving = \$3,045,000

Church contributions will grow our witness and mission and support God's miracles through:

- **Next Generation Ministries** – Cultivate new generations of enthusiastic disciples of Jesus Christ that connect, engage and lead in their congregations and communities to transform the world.
- **A Future with Hope** – Implement 100 Hope Centers that will focus on youth development, education, social services and community housing.
- **\*Disaster Relief** – Help people, particularly the people of Puerto Rico, who were impacted by hurricanes in 2017.
- **Tanzania Project**- Grow our global impact by building a Hope Center in Tanzania that will provide life-saving and preventive treatment to the community

*\*All funds already given by local congregations to GNJ Disaster Relief in response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria will be counted toward their campaign goal.*

### **What does the Bible teach about raising funds for the mission?**

God is in the miracle business and God has a plan for United Methodists in Greater New Jersey. King David gives us a prime example of raising funds for God-sized miracles. Here are some of the principles incorporated into raising funds for the Temple, as we find recorded in 2 Chronicles 29. It is still valid for us today.

*King David said to the whole assembly, "My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced, and the work is great; for the temple will not be for mortals but for the Lord God. So, I have provided for the house of my God, so far as I was able, the gold for the things of gold, the silver for the things of silver, and the bronze for the things of bronze, the iron for the things of iron, and wood for the things of wood, besides great quantities of onyx and stones for setting, antimony, colored stones, all sorts of precious stones, and marble in abundance. Moreover, in addition to all that I have provided for the holy house, I have a treasure of my own of gold and silver, and because of my devotion to the house of my God I give it to the house of my God: three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, for overlaying the walls of the house, and for all the work to be done by artisans, gold for the things of gold and silver for the things of silver. Who then will offer willingly, consecrating themselves today to the Lord?"*

*Then the leaders of ancestral houses made their freewill offerings, as did also the leaders of the tribes, the commanders of the thousands and of the hundreds, and the officers over the king's work. They gave for the service of the house of God five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze, and one hundred thousand talents of iron.*

*Whoever had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the Lord, into the care of Jehiel the Gershonite. Then the people rejoiced because these had given willingly, for with single mind they had offered freely to the Lord; King David also rejoiced greatly. Then David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly; David said: "Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our ancestor Israel, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth, is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all.*  
1 Chronicles 29:1 - 13

### **How does this model apply to us?**

David's generosity as witnessed in 1 Chronicles 29 and his passion can be witnessed in Psalm 132, where he describes a drive so strong for providing a Temple for God that he will not even take a nap until it is accomplished. **The people will not surpass their leaders in either passion for the project, or in a financial sacrifice to support it.** Leaders cannot "sit this one out" when it comes to a major funding project. Once people see the passion and commitment of their leaders, they will give even more generously.

We will follow the model of 1 Chronicles 29 which is a modeling process.

1. The Bishop will make a pledge to the *Miracles Everywhere* Campaign
2. The Cabinet, the Extended Leadership Team and key conference leaders will make their pledge to the campaign
3. Funds on hand or already raised will be added
4. Lead gifts from donors will be sought
5. Clergy will be invited to make a gift
6. Lead churches will be invited to give
7. Churches will be invited to make pledges to the campaign

Once people see the generosity of their leaders, they will give generously.

## Resolution to End Harm to Youth

**Whereas**, Jesus Christ has expressly given the least, the lost, and the hurting a place among the people of God, and teaches us, saying...“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:40 NRSV); and

**Whereas**, Paragraph 162J of The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church states: *“Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to supporting those rights and liberties for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation.... Moreover, we support efforts to stop violence and other forms of coercion against all persons, regardless of sexual orientation.”* (Book of Discipline, 2016);

**Whereas**, despite the fact that our church members hold diverse theological opinions, we share John Wesley’s commitment to his three simple rules: “Do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.”

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the following resolution is adopted by the 2018 Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

The Greater New Jersey Conference of The United Methodist Church seeks to follow a biblical mandate of edification of the least, the lost, and the hurting in order to prevent suicide, sexual assault, trafficking, and homelessness of youth, including those youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ);

The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church seeks to educate families and churches about how to respond with love to youth in our churches and our world. This response includes affirming the value and sacred worth of all youth, maintaining safe spaces for young people

that comply with safe sanctuary policies of the United Methodist Church (under Discipleship Ministries as part of the Book of Discipline under Social Principles), demonstrating respect for youth; and advocating for the needs and rights of youth in our churches and in our world.

We vow, as churches and people of faith, to bear witness to the value of each and every life by not remaining silent when this value is questioned or dehumanized. We categorically oppose the practices of human trafficking and slavery in all its forms. We urge our churches, committees, campus ministries, and all other United Methodist organizations to create safe sanctuary space for each and every child of God.

In the spirit of advocating for safe spaces, we call upon every United Methodist to respond to acts of prejudice, harassment, bullying, abuse, and violence against all persons, including our LGBTQ youth, with acts of compassion and justice. Moreover, we call upon the Church and society to intentionally support, advocate on behalf of, and minister to all at risk youth regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

**Be it further resolved** that, where possible, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church encourage work with local schools to support educational opportunities that further best practices for creating safe spaces, policies for reducing bullying, and efforts to support youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or who question their sexual orientation or gender identity, since research demonstrates that youth who identify in LGBTQ categories are at increased risk of suicide and harm in our churches and in our world.

We call upon clergy to provide counseling and emotional and spiritual assistance to the families of all youth, including those who identify in sexual minority categories such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning, and most especially to youth who are struggling and to families who have lost loved ones to suicide. This counseling should help families and youth better understand and value their life as a sacred gift, and teach practical skills for making the home a safe place and the church a safe sanctuary space that is free of ridicule, bullying, and physical and verbal abuse. All children deserve to know that they are loved and valued. We implore our leaders and churches to be a model of God's grace, love, acceptance and hope for all children.

Finally, we call all church leaders to offer formal opportunities for churches and communities to engage in study, prayer, and safe conversations around the work of the Commission on A Way Forward. We implore the conference to assist in training and equipping pastors and lay leadership as facilitators of this dialogue, specifically offering trainings in group facilitations skills for sensitivity and respectful dialogue among divergent opinions so that all peoples of all ages might grow to know they are beloved children of God.

Young people in our world today are hurting and being harmed. The New Jersey 2017 Youth Suicide Report shows that suicide is increasing among young children ages 10-18 in our state.

All children and youth deserve to be loved, accepted, and valued. Youth who identify themselves as lesbian, gay, and bisexual are four times more likely to attempt suicide than their straight peers; and 40% of transgender adults report having attempted suicide, of which 92% attempts were made while under the age of 25 (The Trevor Project, 2017).

Youth who come from families that reject their sexual identification categories are 8.4 times as likely to have attempted suicide as their straight peers who reported no or low levels of family rejection, and an estimated 40% of youth served by drop-in centers, street outreach programs, and housing programs identify as LGBTQ (Durso & Gates, 2012).

Homeless youth often run away or are turned out of their homes due to discrimination, name calling, rejection and abuse. Additionally, these young people often lack support within many institutions (their schools, families, and churches) specifically because of discrimination related to their sexuality which leaves them more vulnerable to experiences that may compromise their mental health. As a result, youth who identify as sexual minority categories are more likely to experience low self-esteem issues, putting them at a much higher risk for trafficking or turning to sex work in exchange for shelter, food or rent money (National Institutes of Health 2013).

Among homeless lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth, 58.7% have been sexually victimized compared to 33.4% of heterosexual homeless youth. LGBTQ homeless youth are roughly 7.4 times more likely to experience acts of sexual violence than heterosexual homeless youth; LGBTQ homeless youth commit suicide at higher rates (62%) than heterosexual homeless youth (20%) (National Coalition for the Homeless, 2012).

We believe our church has a moral and ethical duty to respond in grace and love.

<http://www.nj.gov/dcf/news/reportsnewsletters/dcfreportsnewsletters/New%20Jersey%20Youth%20Suicide%20Report%202017.pdf>

Submitted by:  
Sherri Shumate

### To Facilitate “A Way Forward”

**Whereas** the Council of Bishops has designated a Commission on “A Way Forward” and scheduled a Special General Conference session in February 2019; and

**Whereas**, we need conversations of mutual respect across boundaries and differences of opinion on the topic of human sexuality; and

**Whereas** the need was seen by the Bishop, who convened a “Graceful Controversies” session last year; and

**Whereas**, the United Methodist Women’s National Office has prepared materials and trained leaders in our conference on having these conversations; and

**Whereas** the leadership of GNJ United Methodist Women is providing opportunities to engage laity in respectful, spirit-filled conversations at the district and conference levels;

**Therefore, be it resolved** that all women of the United Methodist Church be encouraged to attend United Methodist Women meetings, whether they are members of the organization or not, so that they may share in these conversations, especially at the district and conference levels;

**Be it further resolved** that the laity and clergy, women and men, be encouraged to attend the Cooperative School of Christian Mission (“mission u”) this summer, where such conversations happen both spontaneously and by design;

**Finally, be it resolved** that GNJ Annual Conference members and our delegates to General Conference especially avail themselves of every opportunity to become informed on issues and options of “A Way Forward.”

**Rationale:** As stated by Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball at the January 2018 meeting of the Commission on A Way Forward, “We seek a way forward for The United Methodist Church that strengthens and expands Christ’s mission in ways that value and enable the Church to reach more people in different contexts around the world and to minister with faithfulness, humility, creativity and generosity.”

This resolution has the endorsement of the Greater New Jersey Conference United Methodist Women’s Executive Team.

Submitted by:  
Susan Zahorbenski

### Stay United as One Denomination

**Whereas** the called General Conference of 2019 is considering proposals that will affect the ministry of The United Methodist Church for generations; and that the UMC strives to demonstrate the grace to remain united in ministry while acknowledging our differences;

**Be it resolved** that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference urges the General Conference to affirm unity in our diversity, challenge in love all that divides and offer to all people God’s saving grace through Jesus Christ that transforms the world. **Therefore**, we pray that you will resist schism and express openness to diverse perspectives in matters of sexual identity and practice.

**Rationale:** This resolution was written by Uniting Methodists and is so recommended by them. Uniting Methodists promotes the philosophy that you are welcome, regardless of which side of the LGBTQ debate that you support. Uniting Methodists advocates that an annual conference can either accept or veto ordination of LGBTQ clergy. Likewise, a church can either accept or veto same sex weddings. We believe in one in Christ. John Wesley once said that if we don't think alike, let us love alike. Some other mainline Protestant denominations have already split over the LGBTQ issue. Let the United Methodists avoid a split, with God's help through prayer.

Submitted by,  
Lester Hemphill

### Resolution for a Gracious Accommodation

**Whereas**, The United Methodist Church has experienced increasing polarization over theological and ethical issues, leading to parts of the church no longer finding themselves able to comply with United Methodist polity and discipline; and,

**Whereas**, persons of sincere faith and Christian commitment within the church are led by the convictions of conscience to significantly divergent beliefs and actions regarding the church's ministry to and with LGBTQ persons and their families; and,

**Whereas**, these divergent beliefs and actions appear to be irreconcilable with each other, to the point that the 2016 General Conference requested the Council of Bishops to appoint a Commission on a Way Forward to develop proposals to end the conflict within our church and provide a way forward that would refocus the church on discipleship and mission; and,

**Whereas**, any plan that is proposed by the Commission and the Council is likely to have provisions that offend the deeply held beliefs of some of our members, meaning that such plans need to provide for a fair and gracious accommodation for conscience; and,

**Whereas**, the Commission and the Council have both urged the church to act out of a "heart of peace" rather than a "heart of war," giving grace and exercising Christ-like humility in the way that we engage with one another; and,

**Whereas**, a significant part of giving grace is to offer fair treatment to our church's congregations and members, treating others as we would like to be treated (Matthew 7:12), not coercing their consciences or penalizing them for sincerely and deeply held Christian understandings on either side of the divide over LGBTQ ministry; and,

**Whereas**, "all properties of United Methodist local churches ... are held, in trust, for the benefit of the entire denomination, and ownership and usage of church property is subject to the Discipline" (§ 2501.1); and,

**Whereas**, it is patently unfair to require congregations who cannot in good conscience abide by the decision of the 2019 General Conference to compromise their consciences in order to remain in The United Methodist Church or surrender their buildings in order to be faithful to their Christian understanding, nor is it fair to expect members who have invested decades of loving gifts of time, service, and finances to build their local congregation to walk away from that building or pay a high cost in order to remain true to their consciences;

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference strongly urges that any plan passed by the 2019 General Conference have within it the provision of a fair and gracious exit path for congregations who cannot in good conscience abide by the stance of the church regarding LGBTQ ministry, as determined by the 2019 General Conference. Such an exit path should allow congregations to leave the denomination with their buildings and assets, assuming their own liabilities, but without demanding payments to the conference that could impact the congregations' ministry.

The secretary of the annual conference shall send this resolution to all the active bishops of the church and each of the heads of General Conference delegations, to be shared with the members of their delegations.

**Rationale:** In an effort to definitively resolve the debate over the church's sexual ethics, teachings on marriage, and its ordination standards, the Commission on a Way Forward has included a gracious exit path as a part of each of the plans it has shared with the Council of Bishops. It is important for the sake

of honoring the consciences of all people and the local churches they represent, to allow them, if necessary, to walk apart based on the results of the special convened 2019 General Conference.

Submitted by:  
Rev. Walter Fenton